

Yet the NAB is left with the difficult choice. Placing the highest priority on the expansion of opportunity at a time when resources are rapidly increasing is a much less controversial proposition than adopting the same priority at a time like the present when resources are being cut and the inevitable consequence would be sharp deterioration in staffing standards. The NAB's choice is made more difficult by the determination of the polytechnics to be particular to

This would present the polytechnics and colleges with a large opportunity. It is generally conceded that during the 1980s the growth of students in higher education will be in continuing education, part-time courses and other non-traditional formats. The universities, by their response to the cuts, have made it clear that they intend to satisfy these new demands, while the polytechnics and colleges, by their history and experience, will have the most important advantage. This does not mean, of course, that the NAB should recklessly adopt the DES's advice to pack the universities in regardless of the consequences for staffing and other standards. But it is probably also meaningful that the NAB would not pay excessive attention to aping the answer UGC gave to what was indeed a different problem, but for different inflation and circumstances.

The person we are looking for is a person who is "telling," searching for "might be a better term - I mean, we said we would make an announcement by Christmas, and here we are at this time of the year, celebrating the New Year's Eve with very little to report. We know for all those expensive purchases and telephone calls - would there be a type of easygoing and flexible personality which would enable them to retain a pleasant illusion of personal autonomy following the regulations and almost completely one-way negotiations with people who are not exactly what to do.

Science and Engineering Research Council, according to a spokesman, and the Royal Society. Sir Arnold Burgen, foreign secretary of the society said: "I would think there is a lot of point to the higher education side of this, because we are the European countries are very worried, as we are, about whether their higher education programmes can do the right thing."

by Olge Wojcie

The drop in the number of school-leavers eligible for higher education by the end of the decade, which has been taken to justify the Government's cut, has been overestimated, according to research being conducted at the Department of Education and Science.

Numbers of teenagers starting A level courses last year continued to rise despite the fact that the peak of the age group had passed, and the signs are that the class distribution of those at earlier stages of schooling will provide considerably greater demand for higher education than recent estimates have allowed.

Dr. John Burnett, principal of Edinburgh University, said the figures showed that between a third and an eighth more students than expected would be qualified for university.

"The DES has looked at the distribution of the birth rate by social class, in these classes which traditionally send their children to university. It is a very cautious statement, and very properly makes the point that behaviour patterns change. But if by chance more children come from the non-traditional classes, that would further increase the number of potential candidates."

Dr. Burnett added that the paper

did not take account of evidence that the number of girls wishing to enter university was still increasing. "I sincerely hope Sir Keith Joseph will take cognisance of his own depart-

The survey is of England and Wales, but in Scotland the proportion of school-leavers going into higher education has always been 2 per cent higher than south of the border, and in 1980 Dr Burnett and several other Scottish principals warned the Government that the fall in number of Scottish school-leavers would come some time after that in England and Wales.

More than 3,000 qualified Scots school-leavers will not gain a university place, Dr Burnett predicted.

"Sir Keith Joseph might say if more children are fitted to higher education, allowance can be made for them to be absorbed into the public sector, but this does not apply in Scotland where the Scottish Education Department has controlled access to her institutions more

The DES is planning to publish revised projections of qualified school leavers in April.

Serious business of being funny

Humour is a serious business, worthy of closer attention from academics, according to a group of sociologists who held a meeting on the subject last weekend.

The Sociology of Humour Group attracted only 15 participants to its inaugural conference at Aston University, but interest has been expressed by a number of other academics and gatherings will take place next month at the British Sociology Association annual meeting.

A paper by Mr Chris Powell, of the West Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, bemoaned the level of resistance both within

academic and outside to "taking humour seriously". To do so was thought contrary to common sense and incompatible with accepted research in the social sciences.

Other contributions included an analysis of Punch cartoons by Mr George Paxon, of Aston University, entitled "Women in cartoons: from allegory to threat", which argued that the cartoonist's specific images of female roles according to their social, historical and economic contexts.

The final paper examined Irish jokes and their equivalents throughout the industrialised world.

increase in students

College classes shrink despite increase in students

by John O'Leary

Average class sizes in the major colleges of higher education dropped last year in spite of substantial increases in student numbers, an annual survey by the Department of Education and Science shows. In polytechnics the move was towards larger groups.

Lecturing loads were also shown to have increased in the polytechnics while falling in the colleges. But the "snapshot survey" so-called because

The extra student numbers resulted in many more institutions exceeding target staff/student ratios, leaving only a handful of polytechnics and a larger number of colleges operating with more favour-

The largest polytechnic classes were to be found at Sheffield, where non-science subjects excluding art had classes for almost 20 students

per class. North London and Birmingham polytechnics also averaged 17, or more students for "Group 1" subjects, compared with an average of fewer than 12 students at City of London, Central London, Preston and North East London polytechnics.

In the sciences, North London Polytechnic had by far the largest class sizes, while Plymouth, Bristol, Sheffield, City of London, Liverpool and Coventry (Lancaster) all had averages of more than 15 students per class. Hottfield, North East London, Manchester and Bournemouth all

averaged fewer than 11 students. Comparisons with 1981 are more reliable for the polytechnics since all participated in the survey in both years covered, whereas only 66 colleges were included until 1982.

● The committee of the National Advisory Body this week approved proposals to close 15 courses in October. On the advice of the NAB board, a movement studies degree at Nonington College, originally proposed for closure, was granted continued approval and not closed as stated in last week's *THES*.

Long search ends for UGC chairman

by Sandre Hempel

Months of rumour and speculation ended this week with the announcement that Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer is to become chairman of the University Grants Committee.

Sir Peter, 55, at present Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, succeeds Sir Edward Perkins as October 1 and will hold the job for five years. Sir Edward is to be vice chancellor of Leeds University.

Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Sir Peter was made a research fellow, fellow and then dean of Trinity between 1950 and 1973. He was vice chancellor of the university from 1972-81 and has been its professor of mathematics since 1971.

Recently he headed the committee set up by Lord Annan to carry out a major investigation into the future of the University of London. While his specific recommendations including closing Chelsea College and merging others were not taken up, the general drift of the Swinerton-Dyer report on contraction and merger within London is now being followed.

Ho also led a research council committee looking at the complicity of science postgraduates;

Sir Peter is chairman of the steering group for the merger of the Newcastle University of Ulster and Ulster Polytechnic and vice chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Council.

He is described as "an excellent chairman who listens and does not speak until he has something to say, an impressive drafter of documents and the possessor of an original mind."

Sir Peter is in many ways a controversial figure. He caused a storm 10 years ago when he spoke out in favour of keeping single-sex colleges in Cambridge and again more recently when he attacked academic tenure. In his valedictory speech as vice-chancellor.

On the latter occasion he made a national headlines when he criticized aging dons who "appeared less and less often in lecture rooms and laboratory, repeated the same aging lectures from the same aging notes, and drew a full day's pay for half a day's work."

A leading member of the Socialist Democratic Party, he was responsible for drawing up the higher education content of the party's policy document. He is a member of the SDP's pool of potential candidates but is expected to leave this when he retires.



Microbiologist becomes Bath v c

Professor John Quale (above) has been appointed vice chancellor of Bath University and will succeed Professor Paul Matthews, who retires at the end of August.

Professor Quale, 56, has been head of microbiology at the University of Sheffield since 1965. A specialist in micro-organisms on one-carbon compounds, Professor Quale is a former Fulbright research fellow at the University of California and from 1956-63 worked under Professor Sir Hans Krebs at the MRC Cell Metabolism Research Unit at Oxford.

Amenities vote

Hull University students are due to vote tonight on a compromise replacement for the controversial £21-a-year amenities fee for next academic year. But there is said to be some opposition within the student body to the negotiated plan, which involves a £9-a-year charge for the health centre, 50p for counselling, plus a £4 optional fee for use of the sports centre and playing fields.

Roadshow

The University of Salford has got its show on the road in the form of a double-decker bus which has been converted into a mobile education centre.

It is the first of two buses which will be part of the university's plan to take technology to the world outside. In particular to schools. It has a classroom with video, television, small computers and exhibition space.

Fiji move

Mr. Geoffrey Caston, Secretary General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, is to become vice-chancellor of the University of the South Pacific in the summer. Mr. Caston, who joined the CVCP from Oxford University in 1979, will be based in Fiji, which houses one of the two campuses.

Clinical extension

The Royal College of Physicians is to set up a new research unit to extend its clinical studies. The unit will be based in the college's new medical precinct in St Andrew's Place, London, under the direction of Sir Cyril Clarke, who oversees the existing medical services study group.

New chancellors

The election of two new chancellors was announced this week. At Essex University, the post is to be filled by Sir Patrick Nairne, the master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and former permanent secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security. And at Newcastle Polytechnic, Lord Glenamara, formerly Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr. Richard Short, who has already become chancellor.

Greater PICKUP

Six more regional development agencies will be established by the Department of the Environment, according to Mr. Peter Young, Minister of State for the Environment. The agencies will be based in the following areas: the Mersey, the Great Ouse, the Great Ouse, the Great Ouse, the Great Ouse, the Great Ouse.

HMI investigates literacy magazine

by Karen Gold

Her Majesty's Inspectorate today began investigating a national adult literacy magazine whose grant runs out this month, although the Government's adult literacy agency has already recommended that the grant should be renewed.

The future of the magazine *Write First Time* - written and read by literacy students throughout the country - and its associated creative writing development project became uncertain earlier this year after complaints about political content in the November issue were sent to Mr. William Shelton, under secretary of state for education.

The Department of Education and Science passed on these complaints - from two MPs and several members of the public - to the WFT's funding agency, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, shortly before ALBSU was to consider renewing the project's £30,000 grant.

After postponing a decision, ALBSU agreed to renew the project for two years "after considerable discussion", according to its director Mr. Alan Wells, and with several assurances from the WFT organizing collective.

But because the magazine is a national project rather than a local

experiment like most of ALBSU's sponsored projects, the DES has the final say on its grant allocation. Mr. Shelton looked at the offending November issue - which included an unflattering poem about Mrs. Thatcher and criticism of the Conservatives' Employment Act - and the inspectorate was asked to advise.

A collective of literacy workers organizes the magazine's production several times a year, but such issue is produced by tutors and students in a different area. Several members of the collective will meet Mr. Majesty's Inspector today, hoping to emphasize that the magazine is only a part - using around one third of

the funding - of an extensive and well-established creative writing project.

They agreed to three assurances for the ALBSU management committee: that there would be no editorial continuity than before; that contributors would be restricted (an outsider wrote the criticism of the Employment Act); and that the WFT management committee would be expanded.

WFT has been funded by ALBSU and its predecessors since 1975. About 7,000 copies are distributed in 10p each - a heavy subsidy since the cost price would exceed 50p.

Keele dismisses union plan to save jobs

by Sandra Hempel

A new financial strategy for the University of Keele which includes raising student rents has been produced by the Association of University Teachers in an attempt to avoid compulsory redundancies.

But the university says the plan, drawn up by a firm of accountants, will do nothing to lift the threat to 20 jobs.

The university faces a 30 per cent cut in income over the three years to 1983/84 and suffered a 13½ per cent drop in grant last year. It lost the required amount of non-academic and academic-related staff by voluntary means without too much difficulty but so far has been unable to meet its target on academic job losses.

Negotiations between the university and the AUT have been going on for some months to try to agree ways of making the necessary savings. A university plan, backed by the senate and council, which called on the union to discuss procedures for selecting possible candidates for compulsory redundancy, was rejected by the AUT last October and union officers then commissioned their own report.

The accountants say their review has identified a number of important areas where further financial opportunities exist which will enhance the main university account. "These opportunities are significant," the report says, "and, taken together with the financial improvements the university has achieved and further savings to be expected from the voluntary

loss of staff, should obviate the need for further payroll reductions."

The review recommends that conference income should no longer be used exclusively for residential services including keeping down student rents and that staff in university accommodation should be responsible for all but major repairs.

The report also calls for the improvement of budgeting methods at present based on across-the-board percentage increases or reductions. Departments and functions should be required to build up and justify their budget requirements each year, say the accountants. "This zero base procedure will identify unnecessary expenditure and eliminate the practice of spending up to budget to justify the following year's increment."

On selling uneconomic property, the report tells the university to find out first whether the University Grants Committee will ask for repayments.

Mr. Brian Everett, the AUT's regional official, said: "There is a wide appreciation at Keele that compulsory redundancy is unnecessary and this report happily confirms that. It is a nail in that particular coffin and opens up a whole new area of cooperation."

But a university spokesman said the report contained nothing that had not been considered and that it would be "unrealistic to rule out the possibility of compulsory redundancy when we are losing 30 per cent of our income."

Poser for principals

by Biddy Passmore

The spectre of a new national body to rationalize non-advanced further education was dangled in front of college principals by Sir Keith Keble, Secretary of State for Education, last week.

Non-advanced further education had a bewildering array of courses, he told the annual meeting of the Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education in London. "You may ask if I am a banker. It is an interesting thought and I leave that to you. I certainly have an announcement to make today."

Mr. Keble said he found the degree of centralization involved in the University Grants Committee and NAB personally very distasteful. But the taxpayer was footing the bill, the Government had to get its money's worth.

He was repeating views he had expressed the day before at a seminar organized by the teachers' group of the Conservative Trade Unions. He told them he was "no great proponent of tidiness" but he did want to meet demand as effectively as possible. "Most of the time, colleges are relatively responsive but it would be nice to know there was some external impetus upon them."

On both occasions, he repeated his plan for institutions to free themselves, at least to some extent, from public funding, although he said he had no intention of taking a line about how it was possible to do this.

Call for stronger links

The establishment of the National Advisory Body for public sector higher education, on a permanent rather than interim basis will lead to greater coordination with the university sector, the college lecturers' union says in a submission to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which is represented on the NAB, says its existence has made "exponential" developments more practicable.

But the union, with 74,000 members in the polytechnics and colleges affected by the decisions to be made of the NAB's advice, voices reservations about the present state of the relationship with the University Grants Committee.

At present formal links are limited to cross representation, with a single member of the NAB on the UGC and a single UGC member on the NAB board. Two joint subject committees - for agriculture and architecture, have been established but have yet to meet.

The union told MPs: "Other informal links also exist and these are probably more important at the moment than the formal links. However, it is concerned that such informal and unrecognized contacts should not develop as the major element in the relationship between the two bodies."

An official approach from the union, which has just got a letter and a copy of the court's judgment, is being made.



Karen Poller, a fourth-year fashion student at Newcastle Polytechnic, has collected five national awards in two weeks, bringing her prize money of £650 and an expenses-paid trip to Paris. The latest award was made this week at the Junior Fashion Fair, in London, and followed four successes at the International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition.

European satellite gets US launch

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The European Space Agency's next scientific satellite, EXOSAT, will be launched by an American rocket instead of the ESA's own vehicle, Ariane. The ESA council last week accepted an offer from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration to launch EXOSAT on time and avoid delays in the Ariane programme following the rocket's failure last year.

The agency believes it has identified the fault in the lubrication system which sent Ariane Five and its payload of two satellites into the Atlantic, but rocket number seven will not be ready in time for EXOSAT's scheduled launch. The X-ray satellite must go up between the end of May and July to fulfill its scientific mission.

The Americans will now launch EXOSAT from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base in May. In the meantime, the Ariane programme will continue with two more launches in June, August and November. However, the ESA will turn the change of programme to its advantage by using the "space shuttle" now available to launch the Giotto probe on its mission to Halley's Comet in 1985.

Giotto was originally intended to be launched at the same time as a second satellite, but the presence of launch needed to ensure readiness with the comet means a solo launch is preferable. This is now ESA's plan, assuming the problems with Ariane have been overcome. The next two Ariane launches, six and seven, will test modifications to the third stage after technical investigation of the failure last September, which led to the loss of the MARECS B communication satellite.

ESA needs to prove the reliability of Ariane to ensure continued commercial custom and help underwrite the costs of its scientific satellite programme. The agency will now almost certainly select ISO, an infra-red telescope, for its next research mission, following a recommendation from a selection meeting in January.

ISO was chosen from a shortlist of five missions for the mid-1980s by ESA's scientific committee, and the recommendation now goes before the agency's council at the end of this month.

Other universities with interests in the field include Glasgow, Southampton, Bath, University College, London, and Cambridge.

Running on an unashamedly anti-

Bids in for superfast millions

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

University physicists are bidding for funds earmarked to build up Britain's basic research in optoelectronics, which could lead to superfast computers using light signals instead of electronic circuits.

The Joint Opto-Electronics Support Scheme has £15m to spend in the next five years, £5m from the Science and Engineering Research Council and £10m from the Department of Industry.

The key to optoelectronics is the property of some semi-conductor materials which transmit laser light more or less efficiently as the intensity of illumination varies. Some crystals flip reversibly between two or more transmission states, providing the basis of an optical switch, or "bi-stable device".

Professor Des Smith's group at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, acknowledged as among the world leaders in the field, have already built an optical transistor using such materials - christened the transphaser. The new device can switch a thousand times faster than conventional transistors - in a picosecond, a thousand billionth of a second.

Government research planners want to back Britain's strong position in this field because optical bistability may be an easier way of speeding up computers than other approaches using new materials for normal transistors or exploiting low-temperature superconducting effects.

Professor Smith's group have already made "and" and "or" gates, two of the basic building blocks of computer circuits, from optical elements and this week were starting their first experiments combining two of these gates in "one" device.

The administration of the new programme follows what is rapidly becoming the customary pattern, combining DoI, SERC and Industrial funding to encourage collaborative research between universities and electronics companies. The scheme will have a joint DoI and SERC secretariat, based in the department.

The difference from other research fields attracting Department of Industry funds, like satellite remote sensing is that work in optoelectronics is still at a very early stage.

But basic-research support will come because Britain is for once ahead or even ahead of American workers, led by Bell Labs, and there are other possible applications of optoelectronics less complex than complete computer systems. Fibre-optic cable networks linked by optical devices would be more efficient than hybrid optical electronic networks. And several companies are interested in developing optoelectronic two-dimensional image processing.

The support scheme will also fund work on less exotic hardware, such as optical fibres themselves. Companies already interested in the field include Plessey, ICI and British Telecom.

The universities which will benefit have not yet been chosen; but the project assessment committees will hold their first meeting in the next two weeks.

Other universities with interests in the field include Glasgow, Southampton, Bath, University College, London, and Cambridge.

Running on an unashamedly anti-

No let-up on private practice

by David Jobbins

Vice chancellors are refusing to relax their opposition to medical school academic staff practising privately for gain. But they have indicated that it is up to individual universities to lift the ban on private practice if they wish.

Already Oxford University is allowing its senior full-time clinical staff to retain fees amounting to 10 per cent of their gross annual salary - the same proportion permitted for their National Health Service colleagues. Previously Oxford academics had been allowed to practice privately but could not keep the fees.

Other medical schools are under-

standing, although none has so far decided to bring in similar arrangements. The British Medical Association is advising university clinical staff to bring pressure to bear on individual vice chancellors and medical school deans for similar treatment to NHS staff.

The staff side would have been prepared to keep the ban but negotiate a national addition to salaries in compensation for not being permitted to keep private practice earnings. But the vice chancellors have indicated it is a terms and conditions issue for local determination, not a salary matter for national talks as the staff side claims.

Pressure has been mounting over the years for academic clinical staff to be allowed the same freedom as

their NHS colleagues, but the vice chancellors' decision means that a solution is unlikely to be found at national level.

At Oxford, Mr. Anthony Weale, senior assistant registrar at the medical school, said the change, instituted at the beginning of the academic year, would be closely monitored. "Fees are not kept by the individuals. They have to declare them all, the money is paid directly to the university, and then the amount up to 10 per cent of gross earnings is paid to the individual."

It was felt the clinical staff had been at a disadvantage not only with NHS colleagues, but other Oxford academics who were allowed to take part in paid outside consultancy work.

Moore's almanac . . .

by John O'Leary

The University Grants Committee could be abolished or subordinated to a commission responsible for all higher education, a leading member of the committee said this week.

Professor Peter Moore, deputy principal of the London Business School, was giving a paper entitled *Higher Education: the Next Decade* at a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society. In a lengthy analysis of the present system and likely future challenges, he suggested a number of alternative models.

His aim was to ensure that the Government could implement higher education policies it believed to be in the national interest while decentralizing decision-making as far as possible.

This could be carried out through the creation of a maximum of 10 "educational zones" cutting across local authority boundaries. They would be funded by block grant but might be given limited powers of taxation as well. Professor Moore said that such a model would involve the abolition of the UGC and the National Advisory Body.

However, greater central powers might be necessary to ensure Government control, which might be more far-reaching than at present, including the power to dictate the budgets of universities, polytechnics and colleges.

In order to influence all higher education, the solution might be a commission on Australian lines, advising ministers on the size and shape of the system with the aid of a small, permanent "Brookings-type" institution.

The UGC, NAB and a further body responsible for those institutions which provide only a small volume of higher education would exist as intermediary bodies between the commission and the institutions. If this system was considered too unwieldy, the commission could be dispensed with and the three remaining bodies left to base policy on "mission statements", so allowing institutions to present their own development plans.

Dr. Thwaites also suggests that the concept of five major sites planned for London heralds the eventual break-up of the university.

Within a generation the university has lost or abandoned its vast role as the sponsor and validation of countless university colleges; the supervision of around a third of the country's total provision of teacher training; the strength of its unique external degree system and the preliminary year which had opened doors to so many otherwise disadvantaged students.



Liverpool University student John Burns demonstrates an electronic voice-link to give customers' bank account details over the telephone, built as part of the university's master's course in microelectronic systems. Looking on are the course director, Dr. Jim Moruzzi (left) and Mr. David Thomas of Plessey Telecommunications, who sponsored all five students on the first year of the course.

London schools boost

Two inner London medical schools will benefit from a University Grants Committee decision to increase funds for general practice training in the capital. St. Mary's Hospital Medical School and the combined schools of the London Hospital and St. Bartholomew's Hospital will each receive £80,000 a year, earmarked for the next five years.

The money is one of the first responses to the report on London's health service produced by a group chaired by Professor Donald Acheson in 1981. Both schools will use the new funds to establish chairs - in general practice at the London Hospital and in primary health care at St. Mary's.

Professor Peter Richards, dean of St. Mary's, said the grant would enable the existing primary care unit to expand to make special studies of inner city problems. The two expanded departments would share their apparatus, which would set them apart from other general practice departments in London.

The rheumatology post will be tied to the college's existing research group in arthritis and rheumatism.

Anti-CND man wins union poll

An important elected office in the college lecturers' union has fallen to the right for the fourth year in succession.

Mr. Bill Hoard, a lecturer at Birmingham Polytechnic, was this week elected vice president of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. He takes office in May and will automatically become president in 1984.

Running on an unashamedly anti-

Graduates made to pay for jobs listing

The Government has ordered its graduate employment agency, Professional and Executive Recruitment, to stop sending out free details of vacancies to newly qualified graduates. From now on they will have to pay for the fortnightly publication in which the jobs are listed.

Ministers were encouraged to issue the instruction, which they say is to "save taxpayers' money", by the unemployment service, which is thought to want to eliminate competition with their own vacancies lists.

Graduates register for employment not with Jobcentres, but with the PER, a Manpower Services Commission agency which is used by big employers and by the commission itself to fill managerial vacancies in its work programmes for the unemployed. It is used to notify job seekers individually of suitable vacancies, but graduates doing so to save money.

Some of the employers advertising in *Graduate Post* already paid to have their jobs listed in *Current*

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Voice for Oxford students?

by David Jobbins

Oxford dons have come a crucial step closer giving students a significant say in the future of the university. The congregation voted 43-39 last week to give two representatives of the student union speaking but not voting rights at the weekly Hebdomadal Council.

But before the vote was taken, vice-chancellor Mr Geoffrey Warnock said the issue should be put to a postal ballot of the congregation's 2,000 members.

The result should be known within three weeks but student leaders feel they made a significant breakthrough by securing the majority vote at the congregation meeting, which was lobbied by up to 500 students.

But a demand for similar representation on the general board of faculties, which determines the allocation of resources between general subject areas, was rejected by 44 votes to 35.

Mr John Grogan, president of the Oxford University Student Association, said: "Since Cambridge admitted students to its decision-making processes, Oxford has been left pretty much on its own. If the postal ballot goes our way it will ensure the student voice is heard at the highest level, because there is some doubt now that it is. Also it will ensure our own submissions are more intelligible and better informed."

Opponents argued that student representation would offer only an illusion of participation in the decision-making process.

But student hopes that agreement could be reached over the use of the Oxford Union premises for a central facility, for example, have been bolstered through lack of sufficient support from the junior common rooms which were being asked to underwrite the project.

No change for pharmacy

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

A University of London working party on pharmacy recommends that both the existing schools should continue, provided there is no further drop in student numbers.

However, working party members from the smaller of the two departments, at Chelsea College, submitted a minority report contesting the group's estimate of a viable size for a single class. The point is sensitive because the working party suggests the university consider amalgamating the two schools if the smaller has fewer than 60 students in each year. The Chelsea department has 62 new students this year, including 10 from overseas, a drop from a total of 84 in 1981-82.

The School of Pharmacy, on the other hand, a separate institution of the university, increased its first year class from 90 to 98 this year.

In effect, the working party, chaired by Sir David Smart, a former director of Glaxo plc, has done little to dispel fears aroused when its inquiry was announced. Its original purpose was unclear, as the earlier Subject Area Review Committee in biological sciences had already recommended that both pharmacy departments should remain.

It was suggested that the working party would discuss the amalgamation of the two schools on a vacant site at St George's Hospital in Tooting to sell the School of Pharmacy's valuable site in Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury. Sir Frank Hartley, former dean of the school of pharmacy, is chairman of another university committee considering the future use of the Tooting site.

However, student representatives on the pharmacy working party who raised the question of the transfer

were told by the chairman that it was not for discussion.

Pharmacy teachers at Chelsea College feel the figure set by the working party for a single class takes no account of connections with other departments teaching related subjects, which can make it impractical to run a pharmacy class much smaller than 60 students.

The final outcome of discussions over the future of pharmacy in London now depends on the result of national negotiations on student numbers in the university and polytechnic sectors. Representatives of Polytechnics' National Advisory Body and University Grants Committee review groups on pharmacy met for the first time last week.

The society would like to see an overall drop of around 100 places available on pharmacy courses nationally, but does not want to see any departments closed.

Labour alternative to YTS

by John O'Leary

The Youth Training Scheme is likely to prove "mild, sterile and unattractive", Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's spokesman on schools, said this week.

He told his constituents that the Government's record on training as compared to a "judicious view of the policy. At heart, the YTS remained the intellectual progeny of minds like those of the Prime Minister and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment."

Labour's alternative would be to create "real jobs" so that education and training led to something positive, rather than postulating unemployment. All 16 and 17-year-olds would have the right to an opportunity of a two-year student traineeship with high-quality education and training.

A Labour government would also abolish the Young Worker's Scheme and increase allowances for YTS participants to at least £30 a week. At 16-19-year-olds in full-time education would receive educational maintenance awards of £20 a week.

Mr Dobson said that the original proposals for the YTS had more to do with coercion than training, carrying "a pittance" of £15 a week, no supplementary benefit for those who refused to participate and no guarantee of off-the-job education and training. A rebellion by trade union, careers and youth services, and employers forced important concessions, but big questions remained.

There was no certainty that the client places he found in industry or that the education sector would be able to afford to offer the scheme after local authorities. And, Mr Dobson added: "We must also remember that this Government doesn't keep its word."

Bringing jazz into schools

The Arts Council begins a new initiative in education scheme next week by considering Regional Arts Association applications to bring jazz musicians into adult education centres, youth clubs and schools.

The scheme is a three-year experiment funded jointly by the council, the regional associations and the Musicians' Union. Between two and four projects are likely to be chosen this year, according to the council's music officer, John Muir, as the initial funding is only £10,000.

Project numbers are expected to increase to subsequent years, as earlier ones are taken over by regional associations. They are likely to avoid amateur jazz musicians or those with an existing interest.

According to Mr Muir, they are intended to introduce jazz to people unfamiliar with it, by bringing one or more jazz musicians experienced in education into a club or college, having demonstrations and concerts as well as encouraging students to start playing and performing.

Although the Arts Council has supported jazz since 1968, and currently provides just under £20,000 in sponsorship of musicians and performances, this is its first education venture and will be closely monitored to see if interest increases.

It comes at a time when jazz, once expected to decline, is showing signs of a revival. Mr Muir said:

"Over 64 per cent of students said their parents faced having to pay an increased parental contribution this year. Over a fifth said they expected an increase of between £10 and £150 from their parents to make up their budget, while 11 per cent claimed their parents had to cut

Overseas policy 'still flexible'

by John O'Leary

The Government has not shut the door on further changes to its policy on overseas student fees, Lord Belstead, minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, told the House of Lords last week.

Winding up a debate which concentrated on the Government's response to proposals contained in last year's report by the Overseas Students Trust, Lord Belstead said the need for a comprehensive and flexible policy was accepted.

"It really is a question of great complexity and many of the issues are for the longer term," he said.

"Our policy must be adaptable to meet changes, and must be sensitive to the requirements not just of countries but of individuals."

Lord Belstead conceded that the Government's hope of sustaining the number of students it sponsored from developing countries despite the introduction of full-cost fees had not proved feasible. But the aid element of the £46m package announced by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, was expected to restore the 1979 level of awards.

He also agreed to consider a suggestion by Lord Greenhill of Harrow that future policy should be guided by informal meetings once or twice a

year of interested parties, such as those involved in the preparation of the OST report, with senior ministers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Other peers were more concerned to ensure that primary responsibility for overseas students remained with the FCO. Lord Belstead would not commit himself beyond confirming that the inter-departmental group which drafted the Government's response to the trust would remain in existence.

Although the Government package received a generally warm welcome, Opposition peers remained critical. Baroness David said the assistance for the third world was inadequate and urged the Government to increase the amount of money allotted to help with fees. The new measures would not necessarily increase the net support for overseas students in the coming year, she said, since the existing subsidy was still being phased out.

Although Lord Valzey said that the extent of the problem had been overstated and the main difficulty was in selecting the most deserving students, Lord Beloff repeated his opposition to differential fees. He said he would prefer to see fees for home students raised to full-cost.

Overseas students in England may set up their own association on the model of arrangements already existing in Scotland. A steering committee representing six overseas student organizations has been set up.

Scots reject differing fees

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is poised to reject recommendations that individual institutions should be allowed to set their own fees for overseas students.

The proposal comes from A Policy For Overseas Students published last year by the Overseas Students Trust, and the Scottish Education Department has asked for COSLA's views, as the Department of Education and Science has asked for the views of the University Grants Committee and the Committee of Local Education Authorities.

A COSLA subcommittee is to recommend strongly that its education committee should reject the concept of flexible fees.

Quirk quizzed over tenure

London University staff are to question the vice-chancellor, Professor Randolph Quirk, about proposals to weaken academic tenure, reported in THE TIMES last week.

Dr Bill Stephenson, chairman of the London committee of the Association of University Teachers is writing to express the union's "incredulity" at the proposal to "abolish" full explanation. The AUT is particularly annoyed at the timing of the proposals, which, it claims, cuts across a large consultation exercise on the tenure plan put forward by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals.

The London proposals were put to a meeting of heads of colleges last week when they were the subject of a heated argument. They include a redundancy clause taken from employment protection legislation coupled with new safeguards for academic freedom.

They will go before the next college council meeting on March 14 when it will be decided whether to issue a discussion document for circulation throughout the university.

"I am amazed that Professor Quirk is launching yet another scheme to get rid of tenure, this time from every school in the university at a stroke," said Dr Stephenson. "Proposals from a university working party were turned down by the college council last summer and the present elaborate consultation exercise on the CVC proposals is showing a massive rejection of them throughout the university."

"Professor Quirk is supposed to be the servant of the university and yet he is completely out of step with most of his academic colleagues about this."

UGC party seeks views on adult learning

A questionnaire on continuing education is to go to all British universities from a University Grants Committee working party.

The nine-member party on continuing education, set up at the end of last year, has already caused some controversy in the field by adopting a very wide definition of the subject normally found only among radicals.

Within the group, which contains local authority and university representatives and industrialists, there is some disquiet over a definition of continuing education which includes both vocational and non-vocational work, and implicitly accepts all levels

of study - even below degree level - undertaken after a gap following initial full-time education.

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals will be consulted about the questionnaire before it goes out. It is likely to include questions on current provision, possible increases, potential demand, and whether the university has a continuing education policy.

The working party's terms of reference are to consider (a) the development of continuing education of all kinds in the universities; (b) the role of the UGC in these developments; (c) the financial arrangements, including student support.

Alvey new technology report taken to task

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The national research effort in advanced computing now taking shape in Britain amounts to a plan for building an information technology Concordo, Professor Frank Land, of the London School of Economics, said this week. But the committee which outlined the programme to the Department of Industry last year did not consider whether this was what people wanted to buy.

In a public lecture delivered on Tuesday, Professor Land, of the Department of Systems Analysis at the LSE, criticized the proposals put forward last year by the Alvey Committee for a government-backed £350m programme in "advanced information technology". Projects planned within the terms set by Alvey already account for most of the new money coming into information technology from the Science and Engineering Research Council and the University Grants Committee. The remainder of the programme is expected to be approved by the Department of Industry later this month.

Professor Land suggested that the four areas singled out by the committee as enabling technologies which must be developed in Britain - software engineering, large-scale circuit integration, the man/machine interface and intelligent knowledge based systems - were selected by technological enthusiasts with too little attention to the market.

The choice of TKBS in particular assumed that future uses of computing would rely heavily on systems capable of making inferences and complementing human decision-making. But there was little evidence from the marketplace that this con-

tinued.

Land also suggested that communications technology should be included in the programme as a fifth enabling technology, as well as systems analysis and design, to ensure that the new devices produced were tailored to the needs of potential users. The director of the Department of Industry's programme should be someone with "a basic scepticism for the claims of the technological propagandists", he said, and with an understanding of the social issues raised through the spread of new technology.

There should be a parallel programme of research into the user needs of the future, studying such systems as the Inland Revenue to define new information requirements. These and other parts of the programme should be carried out with foreign partners, Professor Land proposed, instead of the almost exclusively national programme outlined by Alvey's committee.

The report against a programme which, with its insistence on a national effort, and its prohibition of leaks, smacks almost of a Manhattan Project, he said. This ignored the fact that the general trend was for technological cooperation, even between trading rivals.



The late show: Professor Dahrendorf speaks to LSE students on their all-night vigil.

TUC throws weight behind education unions' campaign

by David Jobbins

TUC leaders have given their powerful support to the campaign for post-school education which culminates next week with a London rally and lobby of Parliament.

The TUC general council issued a statement expressing solidarity with the five trade unions and the National Union of Students which have organized the action in protest at government policies in all sectors of post-school education.

It is believed to be the first time that the Association of University Teachers and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education have jointly organized a protest on the scale planned.

The general council joined the unions and the NUS in deploring the reduction in student grants and the threat to introduce loans.

TUC general secretary Mr Len Murray said: "We believe more and better post-school education and training opportunities for all ages are vital to the nation's economic recovery. All adults and young people over 16 should have the right to continue their education or training with proper financial support."

Next Wednesday's day of action will begin with a rally at Tower Hill where the star speakers will be Labour leader Mr Michael Foot, union general secretary Mr Geoffrey Drain and Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, and NUS president Mr Neil Stewart.

Leader, back page

Pension contributions 'unfair'

A research associate at Heriot-Watt University is fighting compulsory membership of the universities superannuation scheme which she claims does not benefit staff on fixed-term contracts.

Staff on the scheme contribute 6 per cent of their salaries with the employer paying 14 per cent. But academics who do not complete five years' service in British universities or the public sector are not entitled to the employer's contribution.

Dr Mary Thomson is currently on a one-year contract, backed by a three-year grant from the Science and Engineering Research Council, and has been told by Heriot-Watt's staffing committee that the university policy is to require all research associates on contracts of 12 months or more to join the superannuation scheme.

Dr Thomson said: "I wouldn't mind contributing to the scheme if I had a realistic prospect of getting a

decent pension out of it, but I don't and neither does any other contract worker. I'm being required to contribute to something designed for permanent staff."

Dr Thomson's husband, Dr Peter Mellor, also a research associate at Heriot-Watt, has been put on an 11-month contract with his head of department's agreement so that he is not obliged to contribute. He was previously on a 12-month contract at Edinburgh University, but opted out of the superannuation scheme there.

Dr G. R. Talbot, assistant general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said no time was specified for joining the scheme. "If Heriot-Watt regard 12 months as magical, that's up to them," he said.

"It's a very good pension scheme, but there's nothing requiring people to join, and one feels that occasional very exceptional circumstances should be handled with some degree of tact and common sense."

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Full-time academic staff cut by 2 per cent last year

The cut in university funding has resulted in a 2 per cent reduction of full-time academic staff, according to the University Grants Committee. The full-time total fell from 43,017 in 1980-81 to 42,840 in 1981-82.

The fall was particularly marked among recruits on clinical and non-clinical rates of pay, whose numbers declined by 35 per cent and 22 per cent respectively.

Of the 1981-82 total, 5,905, or 14 per cent, were women, and 3,382 (8 per cent) were on clinical rates of pay. Of the 32,755 (76 per cent) full-time staff paid wholly from general university funds, 4,228 (13 per cent) were in professional or equivalent grades; 8,534 (26 per cent) were at reader or senior lecturer level; 19,449 (59 per cent) were lecturers or equivalent; and 344 (2 per cent) were in other grades.

The average age of full-time staff fell from 40.4 years in 1980-81 to 40.1 years in 1981-82, with 15 per cent aged 35 or over.

"The expansion of the university system in the 1960s and early 1970s has resulted in an age distribution of staff significantly different from that required in a steady-state situation, which for example, about 25 per cent would be expected to be aged 35 or over," the committee says.

"This means that in normal circumstances relatively few would be expected to retire in the next few years."

and correspondingly few recruited". The age of staff in different departments varied considerably, the committee found, with medical, arts and social studies staff tending to be younger than those in engineering, technology and other science departments.

The number of full-time undergraduates in British universities went up by 1 per cent from 251,200 to 253,400, of which 235,000 were home and 18,400 overseas students. The overseas total fell for the second successive year, the UGC says, and represented a drop of 10 per cent from the peak of 20,400 in 1979-80.

The number of postgraduates fell by around 1.5 per cent to 30,700, home and 16,200 overseas students. The total of overseas postgraduates was the lowest since the mid-1970s.

While numbers of women undergraduates and postgraduates continued the upward trend, of recent years, there is now some evidence from the new entrant statistics that the percentage of women students is levelling off.

Over 18,800 continuing education courses were run in 1981-82, comprising extra-mural, postgraduate medical and other post-experience courses, involving 443,000 students.

University Statistics 1981-82. Vol 1 - Students and staff. Published on behalf of the UGC by the Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 40, Cheltenham (27.50p).

Glasgow students rent strike put to bed

An old mattress and a wheelbarrow have ended a six-week rent strike among Glasgow University students.

Students in the university's halls of residence, whose fees are the highest in Scotland, were demanding a reduction and rebates.

The university court agreed to waive the late payment surcharge on fees until it has determined the new amounts at its meeting last week. However, the halls proposed

£28,000, and the student demands were rejected.

The students' representative council said £28,000 of the withheld fees, and £10,000 in a wheelbarrow full of ten pence coins.

A report in Glasgow's student newspaper, The Guardian, said a small questionnaire shows 27 per cent of Glasgow students have a

wardrobe or loan, but this rose to almost 45 per cent of fourth-year students.

More than 64 per cent of students said their parents faced having to pay an increased parental contribution this year. Over a fifth said they expected an increase of between £10 and £150 from their parents to make up their budget, while 11 per cent claimed their parents had to cut

Fears over nuclear research

from E. Patrick McQuaid

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. Nuclear weapons-related research is under fire by nearly 300 professors and staff members at one of the nation's five centres for synchrotron radiation experimentation. A petition opposing the development and testing of high speed X-ray detectors at Stanford University in California has been signed by 15 of the 31 teaching staff and 280 of the laboratory's 1,200 research employees.

The X-ray detectors can be used to analyze radiation generated by nuclear explosion but also have applications in the biological sciences. Synchrotron radiation is the electromagnetic radiation - including visible light as well as X-rays - emitted by high energy electrons fixed on a circular path by radio frequency under the influence of a time-varying magnetic field. A straight moving electron does not radiate while an electron passing through a magnetic field follows a curve, representing acceleration and emitting radiation. A detector could be used, for instance, to study how atoms rearrange themselves when a muscle contracts. But concerned scientists say their research, even if specifically geared for biological, chemical, or materials experimentation, can be applied to the development of nuclear weaponry. "Our electrons are their electrons," a professor representing the disgruntled teaching staff commented.

Scientists with three other laboratories - Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and Los Alamos - are seeking \$5m from the department of energy to carry out the research at Stanford's synchrotron radiation laboratory. In addition, teaching and research staff from seven campuses of the University of California system have requested \$1m in federal funds allocated to the state university for a 50 per cent stake in the experiments. Their role in the overall project would be completely unrelated directly to weapons research, according to proposals.

The Stanford lab, described by proponents of the testing as being conveniently located, has a reputation for "openness and non-involvement in weapons research", which, according to university representatives, has attracted a distinguished cadre of high energy physicists who share those sentiments. Among them is the laboratory's director, Professor Arthur Blumenthal.

University research rules require that a member of the Stanford teaching staff be principal investigator on any project at the synchrotron lab. Should Professor Blumenthal decline to accept that role the fate of the radiation experiments is put into further doubt. Funding for the proposals has not been included in the budget recommendations submitted by the White House. A panel of scientists not affiliated with Stanford is reviewing the proposals and raising concerns

that could take several months before reaching a definite conclusion. Neither that report nor Stanford regulations would reject the experiments solely on their applicability to nuclear weapons research.

The author of the Stanford petition, engineering physicist Mary James, says there is no question that the research is intended for the development of nuclear weapons. It is stated in the proposal submitted to the department of energy by scientists at Lawrence Livermore that "this will directly and immediately benefit weapons programmes".

Eighty per cent of the costs would be covered by "weapons labs", an indication of intent, says Professor James. On the other side, Lawrence Livermore physicist Lloyd Mulhauf notes that biological research could benefit greatly from the instrumentation for weapons. "I don't see this in any different category than other work done at Stanford," he says. "It makes a lot of sense for the government to fund centres regionally."

Inevitably, many of the Stanford lab's 10,000 yearly visitors ask if bombs are made there. "And the answer is: No, we're not involved in weapons. We try to understand the basic laws of nature," Professor Gregory Lowm might answer. But he continued: "The idea that we could no longer answer that question in a straightforward way was something we felt very uncomfortable with."



Herr Schmidt: delivering commencement address. M. Giscard d'Estaing: "a major policy address"

Former heads of state top the bill

Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former president of France, will visit Cambridge, Massachusetts, to deliver each other in May. Herr Schmidt is to deliver the 117th Commencement Address at graduation exercises for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Giscard d'Estaing will deliver a series of seminars and informal talks.

Personal gain beats the public good

First-year students in American colleges and universities are more interested in personal gain than public welfare. Career plans in business, engineering, and computer programming far outweigh interests in teaching, scientific research, or social work.

The annual survey of 267,000 new students at 492 institutions by the University of California at Los Angeles and the American Council on Education suggests that altruism on campus is at an all-time low and the prime concern among students. "Being very well off financially" was described as "very important" by more than two-thirds of those surveyed, with 70 per cent also endorsing being "able to make more money" as a key reason for attending college.

Some 20 years ago nearly a quarter of the first-year student body planned careers as educators while the latest survey pegs student interest in the teaching profession at 4.7 per cent. The most popular career aspiration cited by students today is "business", which weighed in at 20.2 per cent. Only 11.6 per cent of first-year students surveyed in 1966 indicated any interest in such a pursuit.

"Helping others in difficulty" received fewer votes than the scholastic "helping to promote racial understanding" and "participating in programmes to clean up the environment", concerns that waxed an entire decade of American student study. Mr. Alexander Astin of the UCLAE Higher Education Research Center, who directs the annual survey, says the results spell difficulty ahead for elementary and secondary education. "Since recent studies of college admissions tests

Overseas news

Promises of milk and honey

from Geoff Maslen

MELBOURNE An Australian Labour government would spend an extra \$A55m (£33m) on schools and higher education in the next year, the leader of the opposition Mr Bob Hawke promised in a campaign speech for tomorrow's elections. He said Labour would have 30,000 more full-time students in secondary schools and tertiary and further education (TAFE) over the next three years, and 25,000 more in universities and colleges of advanced education by 1990.

This would mean as many people taking part in education as in the mid-1970s and would begin to establish a workforce more attuned to the challenges ahead, he said. Mr Hawke promised an immediate

\$A15m (£9m) for upgrading and expanding the TAFE sector and applying an equal opportunities policy.

Under a Labour government, selected universities and colleges would get money to increase enrolments in approved areas, with special emphasis given to disadvantaged groups and to off-campus students. The tertiary education allowance would be gradually improved to set the cut-off point for the parental means test at the level of average weekly earnings and make the maximum grant equal to the single, adult, unemployment benefit.

Mr Hawke also promised a programme to award 300 research fellowships to scholars holding PhDs. They would receive \$A18,000 (£10,800) a year plus an allowance of \$A5,000 (£3,000) for travel, equip-

ment and administrative costs. Labour's list of promises stand in stark contrast to the offerings put forward by the Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, when he presented the Liberal Party's policies on education.

Mr Fraser said his government would ask the Tertiary Education Commission to investigate whether there were enough places and opportunities available in tertiary education, but he made no promises to provide further funding.

Mature-age allowances for teacher trainees would be introduced over a period of five years, with 100 awards a year.

He would establish a special youth project in re-afforestation and conservation and further projects, which he did not specify, for people not helped enough by present programmes. An extra 10,000 places would come over two years for young men and women on the basis of a one-year voluntary enlistment in the armed services.

Australia's education system stands in ruins, warns report

Australia's higher education system is facing a crisis caused directly by government policies since 1975, claims a report just released in Melbourne, writes Geoff Maslen.

Though government spending has increased, that part of it given to education has barely kept up with inflation, the report says. Defence spending has gone up by 25 per cent since 1975 and help to industry by 45 per cent.

The report was commissioned by the Higher Education Round Table, an umbrella body of staff and student organizations.

It claims the average student grant has been cut by 14 per cent, and building programmes at tertiary institutions have almost stopped.

The report quotes the Universities Council's views in 1981 that 12 per cent of university buildings needed major renovation with another 1 in 20 in need of demolition.

The report says research in universities has been severely affected by the cutbacks in capital, equipment, and recurrent funding. The value of Australian Research Grants Committee funds per university researcher has been halved since 1966 and the

ARGC had been described by its chairman as a "disaster". There has been a shift in the balance between junior and senior staff as a result of lack of opportunities and lack of mobility of senior staff, combined with the tendency of universities and colleges to sack junior and untested staff when making financial cuts, says the report. The proportion of academics on fixed-term, non-renewable contracts had doubled since 1973.

The report warns that the proportion of school-leavers going on to higher education has fallen by 20 per cent. The fact that student allowances are worth little more than half the amount required to live on the poverty line - must be the cause of some of the drift from high education, but the government's "public evaluation of university and college education can also be seen as influential in the formation of community attitudes," adds the report.

It is particularly critical of the place of women in higher education. Women represent about 17 per cent of all full-time academic staff yet they are distributed mainly towards the junior levels. Mr Hawke said, so that full-time enrolments could be increased by 25,000 by 1990, the Tertiary Education Commission would be asked to report on institutions with spare buildings and other facilities, and on teacher education institutions and the need for extra teachers likely to arise in the late 1980s.

The commission would also look at those institutions capable of developing programmes to increase the participation of minority groups, including aborigines.

Labour is short by 8 to 10 per cent, although the gap is narrowing, although the gap is narrowing, Mr Hawke is considerably more popular in the electorate than the Prime Minister but, since he has been party leader less than a month, many people are cautious about his ability to lead the country.

Students tried without a plea

by David Jobbins

The trial of seven Kaoyan university students accused of sedition following last year's abortive coup against the government of president Daniel arap Moi has begun in Nairobi.

According to Amnesty International sources, the hearing started without defence lawyers being informed. Meanwhile, the university, which was closed by the government after the uprising, led by elements in the country's air force and in which students from the university became embroiled, was due to reopen briefly this week merely to complete the 1981-82 academic year. But President Moi has made clear that it will not reopen fully until it is restructured in line with national needs.

Last week 61 of the 68 students due to go on mass trial for sedition were pardoned and instructed to return to their home areas and report regularly to their local chiefs. They had been held since August. The Government requires them to be of good conduct and behaviour, an official statement said. "They are lucky to receive the pardon. Failure to honour this requirement will be treated with the seriousness it deserves."

Amnesty International has adopted eight prisoners - two lecturers and six students - and is looking into the cases of three others. The university had been receiving increasingly severe criticism in the months before the coup for acting as a focal point for anti-government activity. A number of academic staff, including Professor John H. Edgar Hillman, all from Kenya, had been critical of the government were held and ministers tightened their grip over appointments.

Grassroots plan to match degree areas with jobs

from Jane Marshall

PEKING Changes in China's university enrolment and job assignment systems should help turn out more experts in specialties most relevant to the country's needs, in the places where they are most needed, and ensure that graduates are given employment suitable for their training.

The reforms include lowering entry requirements for some university applicants and involving employers in graduate work assignment, which is at present exclusively channelled through the centralized State Planning Commission.

Higher education has the formidable task of supplying the huge army of specialists and experts required to help achieve China's plan,

announced last year, to quadruple agricultural and industrial output by the turn of the century. The government has already announced its intention of doubling the number of university students by 1990 (THES, December 3, 1982), and in the year beginning next September the state will enrol 348,600 college students - 10 per cent more than in 1982.

China's universities last year provided fewer than half the graduates requested by the country's businesses and government departments; but even so, imbalance in the division of students between disciplines meant that some fields turned out too many graduates.

According to a report in the official newspaper People's Daily, 30 fields of study, involving 10,000

graduates, supply exceeded demand. These were in limited specialties such as nuclear energy, nuclear physics, engineering physics, space physics, and some fields of metallurgy, agricultural mechanics, oceanography and electronic computers. For many graduates, said the report, there existed no suitable job for their training.

Simultaneously, there were some areas crying out for experts - including political science, bio-engineering and agricultural engineering - but there were no courses for these specialties in China. Other disciplines trained two graduates.

The changes in university enrolment and job assignment procedures were recently outlined by the Ministry of Education.

Germans protest for peace

from Donald Fields

West German university lecturers and intellectuals who recently launched a petition on behalf of conscientious objectors arrested in East Germany have been duped according to the official East German news agency ADN.

The agency says they have fallen victim to a misinformation campaign intended to cause uncertainty among intellectuals in the peace movement during the run-up to the West German elections on March 6. "Not a single citizen, critical artist or worker, let alone young person, has been arrested for supporting peace," said ADN.

The alleged arrests which sparked off the protest were of three young people - artist Frank Rupp, songwriter Peter Keller, and car mechanic Edgar Hillmann - all from Jena. All three had taken part in an attempted demonstration on Christmas Eve,

Finland 'too ambitious'

from Donald Fields

HELSINKI In a generally favourable report, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has expressed anxiety about what it calls Finland's "formidably ambitious target" of making post-secondary education universal. The 24-country organization, to which Finland was admitted in 1969, urges the need to correct the concept of a "first-and" education system covering specific age groups with a "continuing and recurrent" perspective geared to specific objectives.

The conclusions are included in a 120-page review of Finnish educational policies written by four examiners chaired by Professor A. H. Halsey of Oxford University. About a third of the exhaustive findings are devoted to higher and adult education.

The OECD notes a mixed performance in the policy of democratizing access to Finnish universities, which expanded their enrolment from 42,000 in 1966 to 80,000 in 1980, and their staff from 2,400 to 5,600 in the same period. The spawning of new seats of learning around the country, now completed, is reducing the concentration of student places in the old intellectual cradles of Helsinki and Turku from 94 per cent in the early 1960s to a projected 55-60 per cent in 1986.

Sexual equality appears to have been achieved in terms of the share of women - 49.2 per cent - among students in higher education. The examiners describe remaining social inequalities as a "disappointing" as late as 1980, upper-middle class children were 314 times more likely to enter higher education than those from the working class.

College president dies skiing

The president of Amherst College died suddenly last week while on a skiing holiday in Massachusetts near the campus. Mr. Julian G. Giblin, who distinguished himself in polymer physics while with the teaching staff at Brown University for 20 years, had been president of the four-year liberal arts college since 1979.

Under his stewardship the formerly all-male college became co-educational, a move initiated some eight years earlier by his predecessor. He is accredited with having strengthened Amherst's science and mathematics curriculum.

Lecturer charged

A lecturer in romance language at Tufts University near Boston, has been charged with rape, attempted extortion, threatening injury, and lying on a felony report. Mr. Alexander V. Goren, a French national born in Romania, is being held in custody. He had been convicted and awaiting appeal on the charge of rape just a year ago.

According to the district attorney's office, Mr. Goren had managed to persuade his victim to accuse Harvard law professor Detlev Vogt of the crime in order to blackmail him. The woman, who had worked for professor Vogt, was sacked from her job, after which she recanted and accused Mr. Goren.

Harassment survey

Harvard University has agreed to fund a survey on sexual harassment initiated by the Radcliffe Union of Students. Organizers of the effort to study the extent and potential remedies of sexual harassment believe it will be the first extensive study ever undertaken by a university.

Two highly publicized cases, each involving a male Harvard lecturer and a female student, have called attention to the issue. The steering committee for the undergraduate teaching staff has been drafting guidelines to handle such cases.

The University of Connecticut has decided not to retract its prestigious Leonard J. Pappas Award for Distinguished Teaching from a professor who had been accused of sexual harassment. The award, which is given annually to a faculty member, was won by Dr. Robert J. Pappas, who had been accused of sexual harassment by a student. The university decided not to retract the award, saying it was a "disappointment" that the award had been given to a professor who had been accused of sexual harassment.

State after state stricken by teacher disputes

from a Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON The longest teachers' strike in the history of the United States ended in Pennsylvania after 82 days. Teachers agreed to a new contract with the local school board but imposed by the state.

In Montana about 30 principals and school administrators went on strike for four days over a seniority and pension clause in their new contract. Eventually they accepted the school board's terms.

In Quebec 90,000 teachers are still holding out in a strike which originally included 200,000 public employees. An estimated 1,000,000 students have been left idle by the strike, which is in protest at legislation passed last month pushing civil service wages back 19.45 per cent for the first three months of this year and maintaining level funding through 1985.

In Canton, Ohio, classes are open despite a strike by 120 teachers now in their fourth week and in New York City 1,000 teacher layoffs were averted after the city and the state reached a compromise allocating an additional \$9m for the school district in state funds.

In West Virginia, a 4 per cent education spending cut will go through despite efforts by the state teachers' association to overturn the governor's order in court. Meanwhile, in Illinois a similar suit was successful, blocking the state's plans to cut \$159m in education spending.

Money muddles blamed for fall in black student numbers

from Cathy Pasculli

WASHINGTON Dr. Samuel Myers, president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, blamed confusion over the availability of financial aid for a slight decline in the number of black colleges and universities during the past year.

In many cases, the federal government did not inform various universities of the exact amount of financial aid they would receive and in turn for relay security information to their students regarding the availability of aid. The 102 black colleges and universities, which are primarily

not exclusively for black Americans, experienced a 2 per cent decline in enrolment, Dr. Myers reported.

The figures, Dr. Myers would appear to contradict those of Mr. Christopher Edley, executive director of the United College Fund. Edley reported a dramatic 12 per cent decline in freshmen enrolment and a 3.7 per cent drop in overall enrolment within the 42 historically black colleges associated with the United College Fund.

Edley's figures were based on a preliminary survey conducted before the financial aid packages had been completed. In support of Dr. Myers' figures, Barbara Davidson of the National Association of Black College Trustees in Alabama said 100 per cent of the nation's black colleges and universities experienced a decline in enrolment.

Mr. Allen Hornesch, of Howard University, Washington, D.C., the largest historically black college with 12,000 students, reported an increase in the number of students and three to four individuals competing for each place.

Mr. Edward Meek, of the state-run University of Mississippi at Oxford, stated that no decline in the number of black students had occurred there. But he did express fears regarding any change in financial aid policies. "We serve a population area that doesn't have a high average family income," he said. "Mississippi has the lowest per capita income in the nation."

Of the four representative institutions, only Howard University, one of the nation's most expensive and prestigious universities, experienced a decline in its black enrolment. Mr. William Fitzsimmons of the university reported that 37 per cent of accepted blacks actually enrolled for this year as opposed to earlier figures of 69 per cent to 75 per cent. In a follow-up survey, 62 per cent of accepted blacks compared with 45 per cent of their white counterparts specified the economic recession as the most important factor in this choice.

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Full-cost principle stays despite fees concession

John O'Leary reports on the qualified success of the Overseas Students Trust in forcing the Government to backpedal on fees, while Sandra Hempel (right) spotlights one company that is promising to deliver paying customers from abroad to British universities

There are two schools of thought about the Overseas Students Trust's report, which prompted the announcement of a £40m package of fees assistance from the Government. Either the trust is a creature of big business which provided ministers with a golden opportunity to avert face and make the minimum possible amends for an indefensible error of judgment, or it has brought off a considerable coup in bringing about a partial reversal of one of the Government's earliest policies and securing a windfall for thousands of foreign students and higher education institutions.

In fact, neither is the whole truth. Even the trust itself is far from satisfied with the overall package put forward by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and, with others, will continue to campaign in the hope of building on the progress it has made. But there is no denying that the OST has succeeded where all others have failed, in alleviating the full-cost fees policy and persuading the Government (in flat contradiction of its initial response to the report) to provide some new money.

The trust, excitedly dominated world of the fees campaigners because of its connections with multinational companies, which are assumed to be motivated entirely by self-interest, anxious not to lose potentially influential students who may put business Britain's way in years to come. Indeed, its report, *A Policy for Overseas Students*, confirmed such suspicions for many. It was widely condemned for placing too much emphasis on British interests, particularly in terms of trade and diplomatic objectives, at the expense of concern for the Third World and Britain's obligations to former colonies.

The report, written by Professor Peter Williams, of the London University Institute of Education, and prefaced by Lord Carr, the former Conservative Home Secretary, conceded the unpopular principle of full-cost fees and urged the Government to prioritize Britain's interests in providing more assistance to foreign students.

Its alternative strategy was summarized in the argument that not that we should return to high general subsidy and very large numbers but that the new policy of economic fees should be accompanied by a change in the use of a tiny fraction of the £2.3 billion of Government money which we use annually for the furtherance of our objectives in trade and diplomacy. Existing policy was criticized as "damaging and unworkable" but the proposals were couched in terms which ministers could accept. The challenge, said the report, was to devise a policy which will secure a full share of the benefits from receiving overseas students, but without incurring unnecessary costs.

The report made 21 recommendations for future policy, which were divided into three categories: administrative, financial and diplomatic. It recommended that the Government should set up a new body to coordinate the various departments involved in the provision of overseas students, and that the Government should consider the possibility of a small reduction in the £150m of money which is currently allocated to the Overseas Students Trust. It also recommended that the Government should consider the possibility of a small reduction in the £150m of money which is currently allocated to the Overseas Students Trust.

logic on its side but did not allow for the realpolitik of Government operations. Although some progress had been made in acknowledging the true sphere of responsibility for overseas students, by transferring prime control from the Department of Education and Science to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and initiating inter-departmental discussions on the fees problem, the voluntary relinquishing of departmental budgets was another matter.

Having said that, the trust that no new money was available, the allocation of £40m represented a considerable concession by Mr Pym, but, as it is spread over a three-year period, it is less than half the amount recommended by the trust. The only diversion of existing funds is the equivalent of £7m a year (a third of the OST proposal) from the Overseas



Francis Pym: found an extra £40m

seas Development Administration's unallocated reserves. But the level of Government involvement with the report ensured some positive results. The study written by the trust's director, Martin Kenyon, had unusually full cooperation from Whitehall departments.

Thus it was with some relief to ministers when the report came out in favour of retaining fees as the main regulator of numbers of foreign students, but it would be for each institution to decide what to charge, having calculated the marginal costs in contribution to overheads and assessed what the market would bear. Minimum fees would be phased out over two years and charges might be set for the duration of a student's course, rather than annually.

The Government's response was equivocal, although there is no doubt of the fact that the issue of tuition fees, according to marginal institutional costs, is not addressed and the duration of fees is left to the institutions.

Recommendations of special treatment for the dependent territories and Cyprus also received a sympathetic hearing. The suggestion that

Hongkong, in particular, might enter into a shared financing agreement was taken up by the government of the colony and was already close to fruition by the time Mr Pym's reply was ready. The idea that reciprocal fee concessions should be made with countries taking British students on the same scale, as their own was considered impractical, but Cyprus dependent territories were encouraged to follow Hongkong.

The awards schemes put forward by the OST had created the most controversy because of their emphasis on Britain's self-interest, allegedly at the expense of aid. In fact, there was a proposal for expanded aid programmes, which was accepted by the Government, albeit at a level likely to be rather lower than that envisaged by the trust or advocated by other bodies. Schemes targeted on cultural and diplomatic objectives were also approved, as was the broadening of the research awards scheme designed to attract outstanding postgraduates to Britain.

But the two most novel suggestions were rejected. One was for 10 per cent of pay packages to be devoted to a programme of scholarships awarded directly by the institutions to catch those individuals missed by the other schemes. Inevitably, the Government took the view that there would be insufficient accountability over public money.

The second, however, was the claim in the trust's report which struck a chord with the Government, since it was for a scheme designed to promote trade and commercial interests through the recruitment of mostly science and technology students from countries where trade was expected to develop. Its undoing was in its approach, with the Department of Trade putting up the money as a reflection of "generalized long-term benefits accruing to the national economy and society" and private industry (which was thought to be playing its part already) only sounded out as an afterthought. It appears that the department, keen to reverse the policy of saving its own money, actually consulted on an entirely different scheme funded by industry and operating at a much reduced level to that suggested in the report. Interest was predictably small and the scheme founded.

The report, then, has had a more mixed response than the initial announcement of £40m additional support suggested, although the package remains more substantial than many expected, and hardly merits the "betrayal of overseas students" tag placed on it by the trust, having got over the first flush of enthusiasm, are now determined to push home this qualified success through continuing pressure from friendly industrialists and parliamentarians. It does not want this summer we have all been hoping for, but within the Foreign Office, a centralizing overseas students scheme is one major objective.

The trust's difficulty now is that the Government's gesture is likely to be enough to satisfy most of those supporting the proposal, even if it does not undo the damage created by the original fees policy. The fact that the OST produced a moderate alternative which needed to be implemented in its entirety to have the desired effect may be just too bad for the overseas students.

Eighteen months ago executives from the Gabbitts-Thring educational trust made a series of visits to universities throughout the country. The proposals they took with them caused many a vice-chancellor to throw up his hands in horror but others, less squeamish, wanted to hear more. To date 25 institutions have decided that the Gabbitts-Thring offer was one they could not refuse and some, trying to reverse their original decision and accept, have been told that, for the time being at least, they are too late.

For Gabbitts-Thring is using its overseas agents and background in advising foreigners about British education to recruit overseas students for British universities in return for a slice of the course fee. It has set up a commercial company, Osbbitts-Thring Careers, to run the service under the control of Roy Ashwell, a former careers adviser at Oxford University.

Last year it placed 132 students in British higher education but expects this year's figure to be between 500 and 600. The university pays a minimum of 10 per cent of the first year's fee plus VAT, although the price can be higher in special cases.

Since the government decision to charge full-cost fees to overseas students, universities have been making strenuous efforts to sell themselves abroad. Special leaflets and brochures have been designed, over-seas contacts dusted off and pursued with vigour and staff pressed into an additional role of travelling salesmen each time they venture out of the country to a conference.

Nevertheless the step from this in-house effort into the commercial marketing is a very sensitive one for many institutions. Mr Ashwell claims it was often the universities with, in his view, most need of the Gabbitts-Thring service which were most reluctant to get involved. At the beginning some institutions which did say they would support the scheme named them as among its clients.

The rise in British fees came as very welcome news to the country's rivals in the market place. Selling university places is now a serious and increasingly competitive business as far as countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia are concerned.

Mr Ashwell quotes a leaflet from Canada claiming that its higher education costs between one fifth and half that of the UK which, he says, is completely untrue. One sales trick is to compare the annual fees in Britain with those in America, omitting the fact that most British courses last three years compared with America's four.

Gabbitts-Thring is moving more and more into general marketing and promotion work as well as straight recruitment. Some universities want to ensure that the product they have to offer is what the customer wants. "We don't, of course, get involved in academic decisions but universities sometimes ask us whether the content of a particular planned course is likely to be attractive."

The company's main representation overseas is in the Near and Far East, parts of Africa, particularly Nigeria, and South America, where it is working to increase its influence. Recruitment is also done in Britain. The Gabbitts-Thring Trust, an educational trust, is the organization which parents of overseas pupils place by GT in British schools, automatically turn back to the company for advice on going on to British higher education.

Gabbitts-Thring clients include Hull, East Anglia, Kent, Warwick and the University of Manchester. The drop in overseas students at Hull, for example, since the introduction of full-cost fees, is described by the university as catastrophic. New enrolment fell from 100 in 1979 to 62 in 1982.

East Anglia took five students last year. "We are making considerable effort on our own behalf as well," said senior assistant registrar, Mr John Brad. "This method of recruitment is sensitive," Mr Brad said. "But we feel we should make it as easy as possible for potential students to get

The great foreign student bazaar

information about the university. We have gone into it with some reserve and we are still evaluating it. It had been suggested that we go on and look for a recruitment agency to put the third world on the map. I suspect we would have been against it but they came to us with the idea.

The present number of 25 universities using the company is about the most GT can reasonably deal with, Mr Ashwell believes. Some institutions, such as the London School of Economics, are so professional in their own recruiting, he claims, that they do not need what GT has to offer.

"But contacting and advising individual students takes a great deal of time and money and some universities prefer to pay someone else to do it."

Fears have often been expressed that universities will be tempted to lower their entry standards in return for hard cash from overseas students. White insisting that none of the universities on his books is prepared to do that, Mr Ashwell says they can be more flexible in their recruitment. It sounds like a euphemism for lowering standards. What it means, Mr Ashwell says, is explaining the worth of various foreign qualifications which the university knows nothing about and is likely to reject out of hand.

He quotes a recent example of a group of East Malaysian government officials who had won Malaysian scholarships and wanted to read in England.

These people were around 30 and had minimal formal qualifications but had passed fairly demanding government service examinations and were extremely able in administration. On paper a university would have rejected them but at hand but we were able to interpret their background to the university concerned which was then only too keen to take them."

There must be a temptation for GT, then, with a few tentacles in the balance, to sell a little together with his or her unknown qualifications in a university which, for its part, might be very ready to believe what it is told. "There is no point in this. You can only get away with it once. It is rather like the handmaster who makes all his pupils sound wonderful on the UCCA form. Word soon gets around."

Some universities question whether the student they get via GT might have found his way to them anyway but without a commission. Equally what happens when a student, being advised by GT, wants a course only on offer at a non-GT university?

"Obviously I am not going to tell him he cannot do it. I would give him the names of the universities he wants and let him get on with it. We deal with students on an individual basis and it often means a lot of time and trouble for no return."

Another conflict might arise when several universities on the GT list seem to offer what the student wants. "It does not really happen like that. There may be a lot of offering, say, French, but once you have sorted out whether the student wants a city centre or a campus university course, a literature or language-based course, you end up with no more choices than those allowed on the UCCA form."

The company is now organizing a three-week recruitment tour of Malaysia which takes place in April. Between six and 10 universities are expected to take part and they will visit schools and colleges, talking to children, parents, government officials and educationists.

Universities using GT are keen to explain that it is just one of a range of methods they are using to boost recruitment overseas. It is certainly a more aggressive approach which may, while admitting some reservations, be convinced they need it.



Wheels of Fire stills: painting a hoarding in Punjab, weaving in Tamilnadu and ploughing in the Rajasthan canal.

Herr Willy Brandt must take a lot of the credit. His international committee's report in 1979 and the public attention which followed undoubtedly put the third world on the map. Previously it was always falling off the edge. Wars, natural disasters, diseases and corruption; the North only remembered that the South hadn't died off altogether when stories about the population explosion came around.

Now development, not just of the third world but of the whole world, looks suspiciously like an educational broadcasting bandwagon. The change must have begun several years ago: global series take time to make and three of these start this spring, the fourth in the autumn.

Why has it happened? And given that at least two out of the four have changed radically between the drawing board and the screen, what are the advantages and the problems that adult development education encounters when it moves into television?

The first series to be planned, because of the lengthy process of designing and vetting a course, was an Open University course called "Third World Studies" which began broadcasting this month - five years after it was first discussed.

Although the most formally educational of the four series, it is one of the few OU courses also marketed as a one-off "associate students" course for non-undegraduates, and its scheduled time - even rarer for the OU - is a civilized Sunday noon.

The least formally educational is a series planned for BBC2 in the autumn, eight weekly 15-minute programmes followed by a 90-minute special around New Year's Eve, called *Global Report*. Each programme will concentrate on updating issues affecting everyone in the world - energy, climate, nuclear weapons for example - with the last programme a compilation of reports and statistics: an end-of-term report on the world in 1983.

A new lecturing post was funded with Mrs Vaughan's salary and an extra half salary from the Scottish Education Department. Mrs Vaughan becoming an additional half lecturer. And so far, the SED has not produced the extra funding.

"Of all people, educational establishments should recognize they have a contribution to make to the community," says Mrs Vaughan. Obviously, there are problems for an employer whose employee takes on council duties. But as Dr Malcolm Oreen, chairman of Strathclyde region's education committee points out, while leave of absence is left to the whim of the employer, the council is not supposed to be a very narrow spectrum. "Rather than leaving the matter to the whims of individual employers should be compensated in some way."

Dr Green is a lecturer at Glasgow University where, he says, "There was no specific consideration granted at all. It's just been assumed I do the same kind of job. You have to cut anything called leisure that other people take for granted. It's literally years since I watched television."

A university academic is likely to have more flexibility than a school institution lecturer with 450 class

Third world over-exposure?

No less than four television series on world development are planned this year. Karen Gold finds out how this has come about

It's the closest any of the series comes to topicality: the other three deliberately eschew the death-and-disaster news and current affairs approach, and speak scathingly of their mainstream colleagues dash-and-get-the-story approach. The OU film crew once arrived in a Brazilian shanty town to find an American news team there already. They filmed the Americans' media interest as part of the development process.

All the series are long-term projects covering many countries. *Global Report* may give the world marks out of two indefinitely. OU courses usually last about eight years. The BBC will shortly begin a 10-part Continuing Education Unit series called *Wheels of Fire* on India, itself part of a several-year series on development throughout the world, future possibilities including French West Africa or South East Asia.

In January, Channel 4 began its series *Common Interest*, which comprises two sets of ten programmes including several on places in Britain as examples of development. Its production, by a consortium of trades unions, charities and churches called the Independent Broadcasting Trust, provides the clearest pointers to an explanation for the flurry of broadcasting interest in development.

The IBT was conceived in 1979, the same year as the Brandt report, and since that year too, the newly elected Conservative government has abolished Britain's development education quango, and begun reducing overseas aid.

Common outrage, followed by the coincidental Government decision that Channel 4 was to be established

as a vehicle for independent production, led the IBT - which at first intended simply to lobby for more, and more knowledgeable, airtime on development coverage - to apply for and receive the first Channel 4 development education commission.

Over a similar period, two potential audiences for development education became apparent. One was the aid lobby: increasing numbers of small but vocal countrywide groups. The other was the international audience to be created by new satellite technology: *Global Report* will go out this December to several countries simultaneously; the successor to the BBC's India series will depend partly on financial and audience interest abroad.

Development issues seemed ready for a mass audience; perhaps not mass in television terms, but nevertheless two to four million for each series except the OU. Who would all those people be - knowledgeable or ignorant; sympathetic or hostile?

Not knowing became and remains a serious handicap, leading to calculated compromises in order neither to insult the knowledgeable nor deter the ignorant. All of the series deal with common myths - irresponsible breeding, wicked multinationals - but insistently.

The OU will assume no knowledge but a regular and increasingly informed audience. The BBC India series cannot assume people will watch regularly, but does promise to draw conclusions about development after its "series of series" is complete. The IBT has encouraged viewers to meet in study groups and sent out over 4,000 study packs, but the

series was expressly designed to attract as wide and uncommitted an audience as possible. The second problem was that development issues had become political. The Brandt report, the change in government, and the growth of the aid lobby contributed to this, but it was always on the cards once public attention moved from the "what happens" of natural disaster and news reporting, to the "why" of informed analysis.

A major change in the BBC India series - originally not intended to be about India at all - followed the discovery of this stumbling block. *Wheels of Fire* began life, inspired by the Brandt report, as a single series of films about the third world and development. The idea was abandoned, partly because its demands on time and resources were too great to provide the authoritative coverage of a controversial subject for an unknown audience.

More important, according to a BBC paper, was "because it became apparent that, in attempting to combine the experiences of a number of very important developing countries, there was a considerable danger of distorting both the issues to be discussed and the audience's perception of them." The Indian series, the paper says, would "try to do justice to the issues involved without oversimplification and without sentimentality, and to avoid a politically committed, sectarian approach."

By concentrating on a single country and making separate films which focus on individual people, areas or projects, the BBC producer Howard Smith also solves part of the problem

of television as a medium for complicated and theoretical issues. IBT's *Common Interest*, the other series to make major changes between programme proposals and production, began with proposals from the trust's planning group, which set out a pattern of magazine programmes on current development - and an unusual idea of using Britain as a focal point for programmes on the links - colonialism, immigration, unemployment - between North and South.

The series as redrawn by the professional television editor brought in to make the programmes largely consists of case studies of different countries: political restrictions on old in Grenada; one-party states in Kenya and Mozambique. More visual and television by far than the original idea.

Development activists warn of the passivity induced by television: a wealth of knowledge is no use, they say, if the uncommitted remain so and the committed give up complaining for the television set. Their criticism points to another way in which development education is different from most other educational television.

In most educational programmes two sets of people are involved: the producer/teacher, and the student/viewer. In development programmes, even not specifically educational ones like *Global Report*, there is always another group: the potential beneficiaries of changed attitudes to development. The implication is that if viewers' attitudes change, the third world - maybe the whole world - will benefit.

The responsibility of being true to that third group may inspire a higher standard, as well as higher numbers, of development series. With most of the present group ironically coinciding with the Brandt committee's latest report that nothing has changed since 1979, it may also turn out to be a fallacy.

contact hours a year. And because the classes are largely sandwiched between the first and second terms Mrs Vaughan has already worked virtually all of these hours. "She's making a considerable sacrifice for the consortium, since her full-time post will no longer be available to her. And she is very conscious that had she been her family's sole earner instead of being married to a university lecturer, she could not have contemplated the present solution."

A cynic could comment that it is the college's own interest to encourage Mrs Vaughan in the consortium for Tayside is backing the minority report of the council for tertiary education which proposes transferring central institutions such as the college of technology from the central control of the Scottish Education Department to local authority control.

At present, Tayside runs four further education colleges, and the region also includes Dundee University, the two central institutions, Dundee College of Technology and Dundee College of Education. Mrs Vaughan is still faced with the difficulty of combining her council work with a full time lecturing post.

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Mrs Vaughan: timing problem

the particular skills they need to set up their own small business.

"There are tell-tale courses in, for example, accounting and marketing," said Mrs Vaughan. "The sort of aspect which unfortunately most small businesses founder on. It is also designed to ensure people don't start a venture which isn't viable."

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When half and half equals more than one

Leave of absence for council duties is a problem for lecturer Barbara Vaughan. Olga Wojtas reports

Nine months ago, Barbara Vaughan, a lecturer at Dundee College of Technology, became a member of Tayside Regional Council's education committee.

She applied to the college for leave of absence to carry out her council duties, which she felt complemented her work as lecturer in economics and public administration.

But it is only within the past few weeks that the issue has been resolved by the college governors, and the solution has not yet been implemented.

Mrs Vaughan maintains she never received a satisfactory response to her request for a half-time contract, and it certainly was the end of November before the governors considered the matter, and decided to grant Mrs Vaughan paid leave for 20 per cent of her college time.

"With only one day off a week, there was no way I could even get to the formal meetings," said Mrs Vaughan. Senior members of Tayside's directorate offered to hold meetings before or after her work at the college.

It was only a month ago that the governors finally accepted Mrs Vaughan's own solution that she should work on a half-time contract, deciding that this would be feasible if

a new lecturing post was funded with Mrs Vaughan's salary and an extra half salary from the Scottish Education Department. Mrs Vaughan becoming an additional half lecturer. And so far, the SED has not produced the extra funding.

"Of all people, educational establishments should recognize they have a contribution to make to the community," says Mrs Vaughan. Obviously, there are problems for an employer whose employee takes on council duties. But as Dr Malcolm Oreen, chairman of Strathclyde region's education committee points out, while leave of absence is left to the whim of the employer, the council is not supposed to be a very narrow spectrum. "Rather than leaving the matter to the whims of individual employers should be compensated in some way."

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biologist

The side effects for doctors

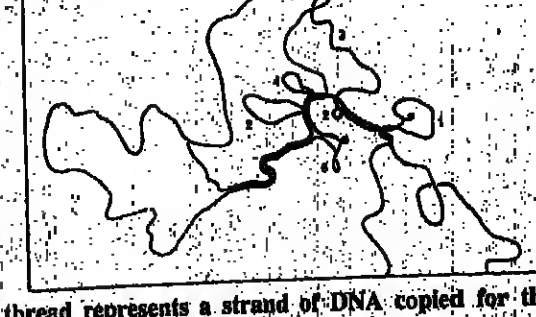
city which arise without an adequate cause, which seem unprovoked and which if left alone develop something rather unpleasant. We should approach these by wisdom, means our knowledge and insight suggest. We may be able to treat them, we may be able to treat them, or we might simply have to live with them. Unthinking adherence to the fatalistic headship of the adoption of particular lines of the excessive promotion of a particular fashion, the use of resources of an unproven nature, neither reasonable nor is it likely to be profitable.

...and the

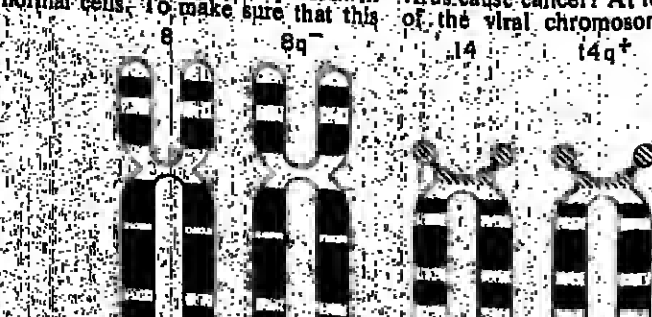
Electron Micrograph of an oncogene. The long gray bar represents the DNA of the Rous sarcoma virus.



Electron Micrograph of an oncogene. The long gray bar represents the DNA of the Rous sarcoma virus.



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BOOKS

World of work

Employment and Unemployment: a social-psychological analysis by Marie Jahoda
Cambridge University Press, £10.50 and £3.95
ISBN 0 521 24294 0 and 28586 0
The Mechanisms of Job Stress and Change by J. R. P. French, Jr, R. D. Caplan and R. Van Harrison
Wiley, £14.95
ISBN 0 471 10177 X

It is remarkable how rapidly a more gloomy view about the future of employment has become widely accepted. Politicians see the charm of accepting the inevitability of global processes producing the de-industrialization of Britain, since that absolves them from responsibility. For different reasons the consensus of scholarly opinion now seems to accept, however reluctantly, the continuation of high rates of unemployment and acknowledges that the world of work will never be quite the same again.

Faced with this depressing future, optimists may seek to emphasize the positive advantages. So much of employment seems to be objectively unsatisfying. If not degrading, that would be better off without it. If people are liberated from such burdens they may be free to do the work they really want to do, whether or not that is paid. Others look to self-help, the informal economy and other forms of communal work as positive alternatives to the collapse of employment. There is evidently a need for cool analysis of a hot issue based on solid, statistically valid data and measured scholarship. A flood of quasi-academic polemic in books and articles, hectoring television documentary programmes, or the recent unfortunate Ralf Dahrendorf contribution *On Britain* are in danger of trivializing what must surely be a critical issue for the rest of this century.

Both these books contribute to this debate but both suffer from the partiality of their perspectives and methodologies. Marie Jahoda's highly readable little text is written from a "social-psychological perspective", although what that precisely means is left very vague beyond the unexceptional view that people's actions and experiences should be related to the social contexts in which they occur and that "people matter". As with many social psychologists there is a rather touching faith that if one gathers enough pieces of the jigsaw, then one day it might all fit into a picture, although what that picture might look like is hard to say at our present state of knowledge. Happily, Professor Jahoda does not bind herself to the limitations of social psychology, but readily puts forward her own views and engages in debate about social and economic policy with few constraints.

Of particular value is her discussion of the differences in the experience and meaning of unemployment between the 1930s and the 1980s. Few people now living are better qualified to undertake such a task. Professor Jahoda was one of the authors of the classic study of an Austrian village called Marienthal in the 1930s, and was a highly distinguished pioneer in social research techniques. At the end of the century are much less than might be expected: unemployment is a different experience now. In essence, Marie Jahoda's position is based on her main assertion that the structure of employment in the modern world has stayed much the same, even if the experience of unemployment has changed. It imposes a static structure on the waking day; it enlarges the scope of social relations charged family relations and those in the immediate neighbourhood; by virtue of the division of labour it demonstrates the separation of purpose and activity, and the loss of control over the work for which it is done.

can aim; it assigns social status and clarifies personal identity; it requires regular activity." Her prescriptions are unequivocal: eliminate the black economy and create more meaningful employment - less time at work for more people with more self-management (possibly in the style of the Spanish cooperative, Mondragon), or more participatory industrial democracy. There is much that is wise and humane in this book and its concerns should be high on the contemporary political agenda.

The study by French, Caplan and Harrison, by contrast, is so methodologically rigorous that those not used to the statistical sophistication of the University of Michigan Institute of Social Research are unlikely to be attracted to it. In a phrase this study attempts to quantify the level of mental health in employment following ideas developed by Marie Jahoda in another context.

One is inclined to summarize the book somewhat frivolously - if the wrong chap is in the wrong job he's in danger of cracking up: signs of strain and boredom, anxiety, depression, somatic complaints, smoking, drinking coffee and so on, all leading to death. Wrong P (chap) is wrong E (job) might be due to a "deficit of ability". If this battery of tests really worked, I suppose everyone who could fit into a work slot would be happily placed, and the rest would be sacked to save their lives. This ponderous and humourless book suffers from too much skill in manipulating data, and too little imagination in presenting the results. These books demonstrate in distinct and contrasting ways that work, employment and unemployment cannot be better understood atheoretically. The social relations of work cannot be described adequately as simply "emerging" from a given context. The inevitable weaknesses of social psychology should surely guide others to do better.

R. E. Pahl

R. E. Pahl is professor of sociology at the University of Kent.

Taken for granted

Central Grants to Local Government: the political and economic impact of the rate support grant in England and Wales by R. J. Bennett
Cambridge University Press, £24.00
ISBN 0 521 24908 2

In many ways this book is an impressive achievement, and it may well prove informative and stimulating to the general reader (if such exist in this rather abstruse subject). But for the serious student, the book's main shortcoming - which is its near total lack of logical coherence and irredeemable - is its failure to be a fundamental and irrefragable.

The book is in three parts. The first sets out the underlying principles, and history, of the rate support grant, with particular reference to recent developments. The second analyses the operation of the local finance system in terms of the distribution of tax revenues, grants and expenditure across local authorities. The final part offers some proposals for reform. The discussion throughout the book is generally clear, comprehensive and concise, and draws on a remarkably wide range of literature. There is a mass of empirical evidence, the collection, presentation and analysis of which represents an immense amount of valuable work.

The spatial dimension of the problem is well brought out with frequent use of maps. Anyone who has written on this subject will recognize how substantial these achievements are, and it is therefore the more regrettable that the book is in other ways so unsatisfactory.

The trouble starts as soon as the book leaves the realm of description and enters that of theory and analysis. It seems to me that Dr Bennett uses theoretical concepts in a rather loose way, without attempting precise definition and thus well taking account of the logical or methodological constraints on the relationship between



Masonry walls rise above the central rock spur of the prison group in the ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru. The ruins may have held mummies or been used to incarcerate prisoners. Illustration taken from *Monuments of the Incas* - text by John Hemming, photographs by Edward Ranney - published next week by Hutchinson at £27.00.

two concepts that such definitions imply. An example of a logical constraint is provided by the definition of a local authority's spending need. Generally, this is defined as the amount an authority would need to spend in order to provide some given standard of service. If one adopts this definition, it seems to make little sense to say "it is normal to let the standard of needs very low (usually at the least needy authority)" (page 33) or "Needs vary between local authorities depending on... the level of their services" (page 133). Of course, Bennett may have in mind a different definition of needs, but he does not tell us what it is so the argument is bound to seem confused.

Because of this lack of precision, I believe the book is based on a confused and inconsistent view of how the rate support grant system actually works. Chapter two of the book introduces the general principles of grant distribution underlying the rate support grant. I will admit to having struggled for hours over this chapter without being able to piece together a consistent theoretical structure. I have noted more than twenty separate instances in this chapter where Dr Bennett's argument seems to me substantially misleading.

These problems carry over into subsequent chapters. For example, in chapter eight, Dr Bennett attempts to measure the redistributive effect of the rate support grant by a statistical regression exercise, relating the grant to local government expenditure, rateable value and rate poundage. However, these variables jointly make up the local authority's budget constraint and Dr Bennett comes perilously close to estimating an accounting identity. (An accounting identity in that, because of standard conventions of double-entry book-keeping, a local authority's income must equal its expenditure, and a therefore be equal to the difference between its expenditure and its income from all other sources.) Clearly, nothing can be learnt about the redistributive effect of grant from such a procedure.

Similarly, in chapter nine local government expenditure decisions are modelled by means of a simultaneous equation system, the logic of which I found impetuous, but which also fails to take account of the structural constraints a local authority faces (in particular the grant requirement) and the balanced budget rule. Again, the only consistently significant variables in the three equations turn out to be the three variables present through the budget constraint.

These faulty procedures lead to seriously misleading conclusions. On page 245, Dr Bennett sets out a typology of local authorities. The

ninjur examples of local authorities cited in the category of "low expenditure, low tax, advantaged normal low provider (inf services)" are Islington and Haringey, while in the category "highly disadvantaged: stressed" we find Bexley and East Sussex. The departure from reality generated by Dr Bennett's analytical scheme could not be more complete.

In some ways this book gives the impression of ideas having been collected together and put to use in a rather opportunistic way, rather than having been absorbed and synthesized into a coherent theoretical structure. Judged by the standards of advancing understanding of its subject, this book seems to me less a serious work. But as a description and discussion of the grant system for the less theoretically inclined reader, the book has many merits and is more up-to-date and more palatable in style than most of its competitors.

Richard Jackman

Richard Jackman is a lecturer in economics at the London School of Economics.

Sliding upwards

Alcohol Problems and Alcohol Control in Europe by Phil Davies and Dermot Walsh
Croom Helm, £14.95
ISBN 0 7099 0816 4

Here are some of the statistics given in this book: Between 1970 and 1979 deaths from cirrhosis in the UK rose by 56 per cent. Admissions to psychiatric hospitals for treatment of alcoholism and alcohol psychosis climbed by 74 per cent between 1970 and 1977. Convictions for public drunkenness rose by about 22 per cent from 1970 to 1979, reaching a record 119,477 for the year's total. And the backdrop to these trends? Per capita alcohol consumption in this country increased by 38 per cent between 1970 and 1979, while, between 1950 and 1979 it nearly doubled.

There is persuasive evidence that alcohol has a lot to do with alcoholism. Those British figures which creased the relationship between problems are much in line with the experience of many other countries. Exceptions can be found, but it is generally fair to say that a country drinks more it is going to have at least proportionately more alcohol

Such conclusions have led to an international interest in potential ways of reversing the upward march in alcohol consumption levels which are today affecting industrialized and developing countries alike. The statistical basis of the research is at times shaky, and any measures which are proposed in the interest of public health are likely to be met with a conjunct alarm by the liquor industry eager for profit and by governments greedy for revenue.

For anyone who is interested in the debate of very great social importance in its own right and which simultaneously exemplifies some important issues related to health and social policy, *Alcohol Problems and Alcohol Control in Europe* will be of great value. Specialists in this field will already have made a dash to the bookshelves, but it is to be hoped that this book will also draw many other people into an informed participation in the discussion.

The book is particularly valuable for its remarkably comprehensive and intelligible review chapters, which summarize the present state of research and theory, and fairly lay out the contending arguments. Inevitably the presentation of technical issues has been compressed and simplified, and the econometrician may find himself worried by the failure to adequately explore the relationship between changes in alcohol consumption, when set against the interactive influences of changes in the real price of alcohol and changes in wages - it is not sufficient to look at price changes in isolation.

The book then offers individual case-studies of 16 European countries in relation to drinking problems, drinking, and control policies. Anyone who has ever tried to collect reliable data on these topics from even one country will stand in awe before the efforts and dedication which Davies and Walsh have displayed in putting this compendium together. However, it would have been a bonus if they had given us a chapter on the tangled machinations of the EEC and its Common Agricultural Policy in relation to alcohol production and trade.

At present few countries take drinking problems seriously at government level and the EEC is more concerned with wine sales than with alcoholism. The essential message of this book is that if the seriousness of this debate does not effectively reach public consciousness, the data given in these chapters will very soon be sadly outdated as every trend continues to slide inexorably and damagingly upwards.

Griffith Edwards

Professor Edwards is Director of the Addiction Research Unit at the Institute of Psychiatry, London.

BOOKS

Dioxin legend

The Chemical Scythe: lessons of 2,4,5-T and dioxin by Alastair Hay
Plenum Press, £19.25
ISBN 0 306 40973 9

It is now over six years since, in Seveso, the peace of a Lombardy weekend was broken by an explosion caused by hot vapours escaping from a chemical reactor. This event, and the consequent skin damage suffered by 187 children of the area, focused worldwide public attention on the chlorinated dioxins, contaminants formed in several manufacturing processes. During the past few years the dioxin legend has been swollen by a number of articles on Seveso and related incidents. As these have frequently been sensational and often ill-informed or inaccurate, *The Chemical Scythe* now offers, at least in part, a valuable counterbalance to earlier effusions.

As the first title in a series called "Disaster Research in Practice", the book is written for a dual readership of laymen and scientists. How well can it reach both? Five chapters are written for the scientists and cover chemical, toxicological and medical aspects of the dioxins, their precursors and the products which they contaminate. The first two, on chemistry and toxicology, bring together a well-referenced summary of results from a large number of scientific papers. Among these are one or two articles from journals dated 1981, commending in a book published in the United States in 1982. The coverage is good enough to make these two chapters alone a valuable compendium of available data. However, they do not have the attributes of critical reviews: this is unfortunate, as some of the conflicting toxicological results need to be reassessed in the light of other knowledge.

The last three chapters of this first section are disappointing. The decision to give a whole chapter over to a discussion of the bactericide hexachlorophene is curious. Although made from trichlorophenol, and therefore possibly containing trace quantities of dioxins, there is no suggestion that the neurological effects ascribed to this compound are caused by anything other than the bactericide itself. Instead, what is not have been better to have included material on the dioxin-like properties of the chlorinated acroleins. Contaminants of boric acid precursors and chloracetylenes themselves, they rate only a brief mention on page 90.

The aim section on 2,4,5-T itself, a herbicide and chemical relative of dioxin, is mainly concerned with establishing the availability of alternative formulations. However, it might have been more helpful if more detail had been included of its mode of action as a herbicide and of its effect as a toxicant in animals. At this point the book turns to its main study: man in relation to the dioxins. Indeed, chapter five in the previous section provides a good introduction to this second section. Anecdotal, with little reference to the admittedly sparse medical and scientific literature, it describes chloracne, a skin condition widely regarded as the only effect consistently attributable to human poisoning by dioxin and its analogues.

The link between the chemical and the disease was made when the same clinician saw patients both from a laboratory and from industry. Although until Seveso chloracne had only rarely been seen among non-industrial people, these workers, in scattered groups throughout the world, now represent the only population on which it is possible to study the causes of their exposure. The results are described here in varying detail. Although some reports are given without comment, in others the author's conclusions seem to be based on insufficient

evidence. Thus, is it necessary to rely on what is apparently either self-diagnosis or diagnosis by newspaper reporter (page 120) in order to make the point that additional epidemiological investigation is needed?

The inclusion of the Missouri episode in the list of industrial accidents is a salutary reminder that good industrial hygiene does not end in the factory; disposal of wastes must also be controlled. It also makes for highly topical reading now that the rears and redecoration of the Missouri wastes at Times Beach has brought the whole issue back to the newspapers. Here there is a clear statement, valid throughout this section, and also in relation to the Love Canal, that no country has handled its dioxin problems without some degree of bureaucratic delay, mismanagement and poor science.

Chapters on the military usage of 2,4,5-T in south-east Asia indicate the conflicting extent of claims as to

the safety or hazards of this herbicide. The difficulties of assessing exposure to dioxin contaminants provides a contrast with the situation in Seveso, for which a clear temporal and spatial correlation between the incidence of chloracne and the level of contamination is now well known.

If there is one lesson to be learnt from Seveso it is that the possibility of a long-term hazard to health, in capable of being defined precisely, is a great worry to an affected population. Any measures which can be implemented rapidly and which will minimize exposure are likely to alleviate this worry. The question as to whether the explosion at Seveso could have been prevented is wisely left open. However, it does seem that the accident represents yet another example of a change in reactor conditions being confounded by unforeseen problems.

This book offers a valuable summary of scientific and medical data,

Genetic politics

Genetic Alchemy: the social history of the recombinant DNA controversy by Sheldon Krimsky
MIT Press, £17.50
ISBN 0 262 11083 0

Although this book purports to be a social history of the controversy over recombinant DNA research, from its first stirrings in 1971, through the impassioned debates in American university cities in 1976 and 1977 to the relative quiet of contemporary industrial gene-splicing, it is neither a social history, nor a work of political sociology; and that is a shame. It is, however, a very interesting, well-written, scholarly and informative book, from someone who at national and local levels was a participant in the debate. At the moment it makes a fascinating contrast with the documentary history of gene cloning produced by the molecular biologists James Watson and John Tooze in *The DNA Story* (Freeman, 1982).

Dr Krimsky's commitment to the idea of public participation in the making of science policy is clear throughout, as is his critical attitude to the way in which evidence for the safety of recombinant DNA research was marshalled and selectively presented to policy-makers. This then is an analytical study of scientific and political conflict. It is based on the reconstruction of argument and the demonstration of how scientific claims were put together and inserted into political negotiations. It is a critical history, the empirical material being taken largely from the Oral History Archives at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which Dr Krimsky has clearly worked through exhaustively. Indeed, one of the strengths of this book is the wealth of documentary material that is placed on display.

European readers, however, will find the analysis a little odd, as virtually no mention is made of events on this side of the Atlantic. There is no discussion of the Ashby report, its effect as a toxicant in animals. At this point the book turns to its main study: man in relation to the dioxins. Indeed, chapter five in the previous section provides a good introduction to this second section. Anecdotal, with little reference to the admittedly sparse medical and scientific literature, it describes chloracne, a skin condition widely regarded as the only effect consistently attributable to human poisoning by dioxin and its analogues.

The link between the chemical and the disease was made when the same clinician saw patients both from a laboratory and from industry. Although until Seveso chloracne had only rarely been seen among non-industrial people, these workers, in scattered groups throughout the world, now represent the only population on which it is possible to study the causes of their exposure. The results are described here in varying detail. Although some reports are given without comment, in others the author's conclusions seem to be based on insufficient

with a vengeance. Third, the book strangely lacks evocative power. Krimsky renders many epochal events banal - mere stages of the policy process, and his only foray into social history concerns the reverberations of Watergate and the Indo-China war for American academics, leaving us high and dry in the mid-1970s. The ethos of Reaganite politics is therefore left unexplored, making his conclusion that the controversy is now in an "equilibrium" state seem a particularly loose and uninformative approximation.

Edward Yoxen

Edward Yoxen is lecturer in science department of liberal studies in science at the University of Manchester.

Compost of ideas

Metaphysics and Natural Philosophy: the problem of substance in classical physics by P. M. Harman
Harvester Press, £18.95
ISBN 0 7108 0451 2

"By 'metaphysical' writes the author, "I mean the attempt to justify the conceptual rationale of a scientific theory by appeal to regulative maxims such as the law of causality or to criteria of simplicity, analogy or continuity; as well as to attempts [sic] to justify the intelligibility of a theory by an explication of the meaning of concepts of matter in force."

The other component of the title is not precisely ill-defined, but I take it that for Dr Harman "natural philosophy" is the theoretical part of physics, and that is not a synonym for the whole of it, as in the Scottish universities. His prime contention is that the enunciation of metaphysical foundations was a constitutive part of "classical physics", a contention supported by studies of Newton, Leibniz, Kant, Faraday, Helmholtz and Maxwell.

To begin with the issue of whether or not all scientists are metaphysicians (a false claim, I believe), it is surely beyond doubt that some scientists, including the greatest, have been greatly interested in the metaphysical origins of the scientific method, just as some have also been interested in the divine origins of the world of science. form a *Bild*; and it surely may be taken for granted that all large-scale scientific theories contain non-inductive elements. That the most general scientific ideas - of time, matter and evolution - have a way of presenting intellectual problems of a sort that may be labelled metaphysical is perhaps too severe an ascription. Should not a book about other books be more, rather than less approachable than they are?

Dr Harman's personages equally transcend such a methodology as well known, and therefore we may well agree with Sir Peter Medawar that "Metaphysics is a compost that can nourish the growth of scientific ideas".

Rupert French

and also of the historical sequences of episodes of dioxin poisoning. Although inaccuracies seem to be rare, surely the confusion on page 81 between the structure of the title compound, 2,4,5-T, and that of its analogue 2,4-D could have been avoided. Certain aspects of the second half may be too technical for the lay reader, and the interpretation of some observations could well be disputed. I hope, however, that many of the questions posed by the author, and necessarily left unanswered, will find their solutions in the next few years.

J. B. Greig

J. B. Greig is a member of the senior scientific staff of the division of biochemical pharmacology at the MRC Toxicology Unit, Corsham, Wiltshire.

Plausible enough

A History of Women's Bodies by Edward Shorter
Allen Lane, £14.95
ISBN 0 7139 1581 1

It seems so plausible, in the midst of the thriving feminist industry, no one would deny that women are different from men; and irreducibly, biologically different, in their structure and reproductive function. It seems plausible then, that these differences have meant that history has treated women differently. Shorter argues that the burdens of pregnancy, large families and women's diseases oppressed women to the degree that they could not resist, and even accepted, male domination. He further argues that modern medicine, by lightening the load of these burdens, made it possible for women to throw off this domination.

But what turns plausibility into conviction? For the historian, surely, historical evidence. For the radical feminist, probably, the justice of the cause. In seeking to convince the reader, Shorter uses both. They are juxtaposed somewhat uneasily in this book, for feminism is essentially a political movement in seeking change in line with the interests of its members - and the rationality it uses and the evidence it seeks are different from those of the historian, whose purposes are different.

Shorter the feminist embraces the cause and steers his book to where the action is: *A History of Women's Bodies*: chapter one, "Men, women and sex". His language shows that his heart is in the right place (women were "victimized" unconsciously by men, and even by nature; men's attentions were "malignant aggression"); and where it rises to rhetoric (men's "wrenching" fear of the uterus it is still clearly a good feminist cause). The English reader might find the language at other times slightly irritating, a North American vernacular that moves from the campus of the sixties ("let's back up" for "to recapitulate") to the mountains ("grizzly" for "grizzly").

Shorter the historian brings special pleading to his argument. He impresses with the number of his sources, but less with his handling of them. By their very nature, most of the topics he deals with are those most people wanted to keep quiet about: embarrassing diseases and sexual behaviour. These things do not readily generate historical records. Indeed, what records there are have generally survived because these relate to something unusual, or when things began to change, like the introduction of nino supervision of childbirth.

But Shorter's case rests on the conditions he describes being general, or at least widespread. The historical "silence" of the sources therefore merits serious discussion of the sources and what it is legitimate to infer from them. However, Shorter's treatment is unrepresentatively anecdotal. He draws vivid pictures indeed, but he does not emphasize that the sources he uses are almost always "loaded": rhetoric by an interested party, like an eighteenth-century physician's tract against midwives or Marie Stopes on unwanted pregnancy.

Evidence drawn from folklore also has to be treated with caution. Pre-Christian Latvian sexual folk songs are very quotable, but what can we really draw from them about the psychology and behaviour of the singers? Peasants in Saxony a thousand years ago drove stakes through the bodies of women dying undelivered in childbirth. Shorter links these and many more less bizarre items with a "massive male indifference" to female suffering combined with a "visceral male fear" of the uterus and its sexual and "magical" power. "Women's bodies are dangerous." It is nil very plausible. But Shorter has not demonstrated it.

Roger French

Rupert French is formerly professor of the history of science and technology at Imperial College, London.

Roger French is Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Cambridge.

ical as well as theoretical value." - *Scientific*

فان الله اعلم

BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Five-year cycle

The Italian Communist Party 1976-81: at the threshold of government by James Ruscoe
Macmillan, £15.00
ISBN 0 333 33399 3

James Ruscoe's book is contemporary history in the manner of Michelet. His aim is to get the reader to see Italian politics from within and to feel directly the texture of a distinctive political culture. He has taken the Communist Party as his main theme, but in effect he has mapped out the whole evolution of Italian politics over a five-year period. Having lived and worked in Italy throughout this period, he is well qualified to convey its intricacies. He is helped by an unflinching frank, almost breathless style that keeps his narrative moving, and prevents the minutiae of Italian political infighting from becoming stifling.

Does the period covered in the book (1976-1981) represent any kind of unity? The answer is that it does, but not in the sense that it marks an era of construction and growth. It encapsulates rather the story of a

prospect that never materialized, a prediction that turned out to be completely wrong. The story begins in 1976 with Italy in the grip of a severe economic crisis, and with a general election in which there was a dramatic and unprecedented swing of 7 per cent towards the Communist Party. It seemed at that time as if the Communists, unsullied by any association with the unsuccessful policies of previous decades, were at long last to reap the benefits of their isolation. Their participation in government seemed only a matter of time.

The party itself was full of confidence. The policy that its leader Enrico Berlinguer had launched in 1973 of "historic compromise" — basically the offer of a pact with the Christian Democrats — seemed to have the movement of history firmly behind it. Once the Christian Democrats grasped the logic of the situation then surely they would realize that a joint government of "national solidarity" with the Communists was the only way out for them. The extent of Communist confidence is graphically conveyed by the interviews given by a leading party official in 1977 which Ruscoe reproduces in one of his chapters.

Five years later, however, the Communists had still not participated in government. Collaboration with the Christian Democrats during the period from 1976 to 1978 had brought them no tangible benefits. By 1979 the policy of "historic compromise" had been abandoned in practice; a year later Berlinguer formally renounced it. Electoral support for the party slumped by 4 per cent in the general election of 1979, and

there were further severe reversals, particularly in the mezzogiorno, in the regional elections of 1981. As 1982 opened the Communists were searching defensively for a strategy and allies. If the initiative lay anywhere in Italy it was now with the rejuvenated Socialist Party under its energetic leader Bettino Craxi. In sum it had become clear that the most significant thing about the election of 1976 had not been the dramatic advance of the Communists, but rather the fact that, even with this advance, they had not been able to draw level with the Christian Democrats.

Ruscoe follows the whole cycle of Communist optimism and disappointment in great detail, highlighting the tactical cunning of Aldo Moro, the naivety and rigidity of Berlinguer, the impact of the terrorism of the Red Brigades, and the reaction of the smaller centre parties to the prospect of an overarching agreement between Communists and Christian Democrats. He also reflects more generally on the structure, finances and philosophy of the Communist Party, injecting what is a fairly well-worn theme with fresh life.

As he has deliberately rejected the use of footnotes, Ruscoe's account inevitably has a journalistic appearance, and his hurried, rather excited style tends to accentuate this. Unquestionably the opening pages are little more than a melodramatic picture designed to whet the reader's appetite and to show him what an exciting place Italy is — rather in the style of the montages that so often precede television documentaries. The substance of the book is by no means journalistic, however, but a serious study based on a wide reading of recent Italian political literature (which is set out in a bibliography) as well as on interviews and of course an intimate familiarity with the Italian press. Judged in terms of its objective, which is to open up the "closed, often burlesque, world" of Italian politics, and to give the reader some confidence in moving about within this world, it seems to me eminently successful. It will be of great value to all who wish to understand not only the formal structures but the idiom of Italian political practice.

GERMANY—

MISSION ON THE RHINE

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GERMANY—

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£20.00



George Feydeau, a picture taken from Feydeau, First in Last: eight one-act comedies (Cornell University Press, £15.00).

question about philosophy itself. It is true that some English philosophers make use of literature in their writings, but they tend to treat the literary text as if it were quite unproblematic. The same may be said of their attitude to philosophy.

Yet the so-called "analytic" movement was born from a questioning about the nature of philosophy: it now seems to have become somewhat complicated and insular. Reading the journals there is an impression that Anglo-Saxon philosophers live by taking in each other's interpretations and arguments. Perhaps we again need an injection of new ideas from Europe.

These remarks are relevant to Alan Montefiore's useful collection of writings by French philosophers, for there is a danger that it will be neglected by those who must need to ponder its contents, which are diverse both in style and in what is said. The editor asked all the contributors to say what they understood to be the nature of their own work, and what non-French readers might find difficult in them. Only two, Paul Ricoeur and Jacques Bouveresse respond directly to the questions asked in a manner that we would expect. The difference between this collection and a somewhat similar one recently published in France of English-speaking philosophers writing for a French audience is remarkable. The latter had a degree of unity. Though the contributors expressed a variety of views, they shared a style and a conception of the nature of philosophy. For the French it would seem that there is an eminently set of philosophical problems that they share only the belief that philosophy itself is problematic.

The editor himself is at pains to emphasise diversity, and he is clearly right in this. There is no common basis, and even the suspicions of the subject of philosophy itself differ in significant ways. Some contributors challenge the possibility of answering questions of the kind asked by the editor. Any unprejudiced reader will be struck by this feature, and I think, be forced to agree that I do not overemphasize the unity of "analytic" philosophy in comparison to that current in France today.

Montefiore's excellent introduction provides a philosophical survey of the background to the articles, setting out their context and drawing useful connections with contemporary English concerns. But he does not fall into the trap of trying to reduce their concerns to ours: it is the best short introduction to contemporary French philosophy that I know in English.

The weakest of the individual pieces is that by Derrida, which was not written for the volume and seems merely self-indulgent. It might have been better omitted.

Anthony Manser

Anthony Manser is professor of Philosophy at the University of Southampton.

Catalan Romance

Enchiridion Guelphi translated from the Catalan by Pamela Winley
Allen & Unwin, 1993
ISBN 0 14 832117 3

This example of the early modern European novel brings to the English reader one of the two romances the other being the more famous *Tram to blanc* by Marquès, from the fifteenth century. It makes up the Catalan contribution to the romance of chivalry.

Written some time between 1414 and 1440, it exists in a unique manuscript, which has neither a titlepage (its usual title coming from the names of its hero and heroine) nor a known author. The fifteenth century saw a continuing vogue for Arthurian romance with the appearance of such new works as Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, Antoine de Sale's *Le roman de la Rose*, and the most famous of all, the *Castilian Amadís de Gaula* of Montalvo, which became one of fiction's first bestsellers and which had a European fame until the age of Romanticism.

Curial und Guefira, in three books, has many features common to the genre. First it is a leisurely narrative of aristocratic and royal society depicting scenes of great luxury and feasting and other gatherings as well as many combats in the lists. It tells the story of a young man of humble origins adopted by the Marquis of Montferrat and later the protégé of his widowed sister Guefira, with whom he falls deeply in love. Curial, a most handsome and gifted young man, becomes an invincible knight who fights for the wronged and the weak and dedicates his deeds to his lady. His adventures, as with other romances, take him to Italy, France, England, Germany, North Africa, Greece and the Holy Land, but he is to Spain, through the King of Aragon is one of the novel's characters, are several dukes and other monarchs. The simple, unadorned thread of the plot is the love of Guefira for the hero for the love of Guefira whom at the very end he marries.

As with other such tales, there is here much analysis of the agonies and the joys of love, articulated by the frequent use of monologues and short speeches (rather than true dialogue), with the narrative moving on in a series of well-used devices as the curtailing of details to avoid boredom. The overall picture of these creatures of privilege includes scenes of erotic emphasis, although religion and religious piety are again pervasive in justification of their activities. The novel also includes some of the pagan gods taken in interest in Curial's progress and whom he visits in his journey. These episodes and the hero's visit to Rome for his monuments and other contacts with classical antiquity mark the romance as a product of the Renaissance as well as a survival of medieval taste.

Where *Curial und Guefira* differs from most romances of chivalry is in the more naturalistic presentation of character and background and the consequent absence of monsters or magic, thus recalling Cervantes' *Tram*, namely that its knights are sleep and die in their beds. Another feature of both Catalan novels is the attraction of the modern reader to the presence of humour in the narrative. While it of course reflects the chivalric obsession of the 1400s for *Curial und Guefira* must also be seen as voicing the criticism of this ancient order and its code which were now coming to be seen, as wasteful, even as medieval taste.

Dr. Winley has given a very readable version of the romance which is also faithful to the original. It brings the varied panorama alive and keeps the story moving. Her page introduction, however, might have been usefully expanded to place the novel in its Hispanic and European contexts.

Frank Pierce

Frank Pierce is emeritus professor of Spanish at the University of Sheffield.

BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Poetry as 'the word in time'

Antonio Machado: selected poems translated by Alan S. Trueblood
Harvard University Press, £17.50
ISBN 0 674 04065 1

Antonio Machado is rightly regarded as one of Spain's great twentieth-century poets. In this book of parallel text translations of a selection of Machado's verse, Professor Alan Trueblood begins his preface with the provocative and enlightening recollection of how, in 1926, a homage to the poet was organized to take place in Baeza, where he lived from 1912 to 1919. When it was realized that there would be a considerable public response, the Franco regime prohibited the event. Despite the fact that he had died in exile in 1939, and his work had been officially ignored for 25 years, Machado had been a staunch republican and a democrat; the risk was still too great to be acceptable.

A year later the homage did take place, but under the auspices of Brown University and in Providence, Rhode Island. It was for this occasion that Professor Trueblood translated a handful of Machado's poems, and the experience convinced him that the poet's work should be more fully available to English-speaking readers. The publication, fifteen years later, of this volume amply justifies his initial conviction and intervening labours.

Machado's poetry has many admirable qualities. Emotionally strong yet restrained in expression, replete with a deep feeling for the Spanish countryside, there are large tracts which do, in the hands of a sensitive and skilled translator, lend themselves to English versions which stand by themselves without losing the authentic voice of the poet. To create such versions has been Professor Trueblood's aim throughout. But the poems also have their complexities, many of which are likely to deny any viable translation that is not based upon a deep textual understanding. Happily, Professor Trueblood (the occasional idiosyncrasy rendering apart) has been equal to both the artistic and scholarly challenge that he has set himself, while producing at the same time an anthology eminently representative of the best of Machado's poetry across the full span of his career. The 64 poems chosen for translation contain seven not included by Machado himself in the various editions of his *Complete Poems*, among them the most tributed to Federico García Lorca entitled "The Crime was in Granada".

Machado is perhaps best known for the poetry of the earlier part of his career, especially where to the collection *The Castilian Country* (1912), he seems to be searching for the soul of Spain amid the harsh dignity and grandeur of the landscape of Old Castile with its unchanging peasantry. Inevitably, perhaps, it is in these often lengthy, reflective works, such as "Aloos the Duero", "The Soris Country", and the later, more introspective "Poem of a Day", that the translator's art is put to its best effect. In the full picture is rather more complicated, and is explored not only in the translations but also in Professor Trueblood's very substantial introduction. Mirroring the complexity of its subject matter, this is not always an easy work, to read as it charts the various strands of Machado's intellectual and artistic development, while providing many insights into the interpretation of the individual poems. This is expanded by the often very full and illuminating notes with which the translator has furnished the text. The movement described leads from post-Romantic solipsism towards a more objective awareness

of the world; away from a search for the inner self towards an effort to embrace the "otherness" of the universe; from a vision preoccupied with intuition and dreams to one which rests upon waking observation.

With the death of his young wife after only two years of marriage, Machado moved from Soris in Castile, which had inspired much of *The Castilian Country*, to Baeza in the north of his native Andalusia. There his penchant for metaphysical and philosophical speculation began to grow, and he settled into the solitary pattern of life, both as a man and an artist, which he was to lead thereafter. The experience was to throw into relief his longing for a religious faith which he was unable to feel, and the conviction that love was the only genuinely possible in the absence of the beloved. Yet throughout his work, the temporal context always formed the cornerstones of Machado's aesthetic — "he it was who defined poetry as 'the word in time'" — and his awareness of time's power over man's existence, his memory and the arbitrary and deceptive selection by the mind from memory's hoard of recollections, the transfer of past sensations and ex-

perience to a present where poetry captures and freezes them, is always apparent. This awareness he expresses in a variety of symbols, invariably connected with the timeless, unchanging flow of water, rivers and fountains.

The heterodoxy of the ideas which the poems reflect means that the reader's progress through Professor Trueblood's introduction is at times uneven and shifting, finding and losing the thread of continuity as the essay follows the twists and turns, reversions to the past and premonitory glimpses of the future, which Machado's verse displayed over a period of nearly forty years. But on balance, especially if it is agreed that translation is also a form of exegesis, the book will offer a better preparation to the reader who wishes to make the acquaintance of Machado, and those who have already done so may be grateful for the assistance they will derive in understanding the poet's less accessible verses.

R. K. Britton

R. K. Britton is registrar of the Northern College, Bursley.

Grammar in practice

A German Reference Grammar by Robin Hammond
Oxford University Press, £3.50
ISBN 0 19 912048 X

Cars are sometimes retailed by manufacturers for repair under warranty; perhaps publishers should provide a similar service. This review of Robin Hammond's *A German Reference Grammar* is based on the experience of using the text to teach first-year university students of German. It is addressed particularly to those teachers who may consider introducing it in the sixth-form and university courses for which it was designed.

Hammond's lay-out is reassuringly traditional. There are headings such as "conjugation of verbs" and "declension of adjectives"; there are plenty of examples of current German usage with English translations, and there is even a glossary of traditional grammatical terms. Despite its modest size and relatively modest price it may appear to be a successor to F. J. Stopp's *A Manual of Modern German* and A. E. Hammer's *German Grammar and Usage*. But it is not — in fact it throws down a challenge to that succession.

Hammond seems to believe that much of the German taught in this country is not the German used in Germany today. He is certainly right to examine school German from the perspective of current German usage. However, sharp-eyed pupils and students will want to know why he includes such sentences as "Wir fliegen in die Karibik im kommenden Jahr" (para. 22) and "Sie hat seit fünf Jahren hier gewohnt" (para. 43). Perhaps Germans today do not arrange their adverbial phrases in the hallowed order of the English classroom "time, manner, place" and perhaps the German who says, on his visit to England "I am here since two days" is not necessarily translating word for word from his own language, but if this is indeed so, then it is precisely the kind of thing that needs to be explained to A level candidates and students.

Many of Hammond's explanations belie the traditional framework of the text as a whole. Is it true that the verb "wollen" in the sentence "Das ist nach Süden geritten" has formed "a kind of passive with the verb sein as the auxiliary instead of the verb werden" (para. 66)? Surely it is more economical, and less confusing to readers, to see this as an example of the active, but intransitive, use of the same verb meaning "to push" or "to drive"; but "to push" is there only as an advantage here drift? Is there any advantage in the might compensate for the confusion of readers who have spent years mastering the standard forms of active and passive conjugation? If there is, Hammond fails to explain it. It is not misleading to mix up weak nouns like "der Präsident" and "der Dirigent" with adjectival nouns like "der

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With detailed curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees to arrive not later than March 23. Interviews will be held in London in the last week of April.

How not to do policy research

Ernest Rudd on two recent reports by the Policy Studies Institute

Almost the only issue on which social scientists agree is that social and economic policy should be based on a sound and thorough knowledge of the issues and facts rather than on ignorance, opinion and prejudice.

This lay behind the proposal of Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics that Britain should have its own equivalent of the Brookings Institution in Washington, which brings together people from various American universities and members of its own staff to form teams who study and report on various problems.

The debate on Dahrendorf's proposal did not result in the setting up of a British Brookings, but it did lead to a series of bodies which are now working on a number of issues. One of these is the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) formed by a merger in which the better known partner was the Political and Economic Planning group. Two reports recently published by the PSI now offer an opportunity of discovering how far this formula is working. They were commissioned by the Swinerton-Dyer working party on postgraduate education for the Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

Successful policy research needs four kinds of expertise: first, a deep understanding of the subject matter, in all its branches; second discrimination and especially the power to distinguish the important from the trivial; third, a special expertise in carrying out research; and, fourth, the ability to do the research quickly.

These reports, which called for two somewhat different applications of these skills, can be taken as a first test of whether the PSI has them. If it does, the case for a British Brookings is not a strong one; but if it does not, the case is still wide open.

The first, *Postgraduate Education in Universities and Polytechnics*, by

Anne Whalley, reports a survey of heads of teaching departments, who were asked about various aspects of the way their departments select, teach and supervise postgraduate students, and the jobs those students subsequently gain.

All departments want, for reasons not at all altruistic, to appear helpful and cooperative in the eyes of the research councils, on whose behalf the inquiry was made, so it is not surprising that the response rate was high. What is surprising is that as many as one university department in seven did not reply, even after reminders.

However, the chief problem was not so much to get an answer as to get one that was accurate, intelligible and informative, in an area that had become highly emotive because departments, on the one hand, were extremely anxious to increase their numbers of grants for postgraduate students at a time when these grants were being cut, while, on the other, they knew there had been a great deal of criticism of the way postgraduate students were taught and supervised.

There are considerable, though not insoluble, problems in getting straight and wholly honest answers on emotive issues. Although it is unlikely that departments will have consciously and intentionally lied, even that cannot be totally ruled out. Some years ago I visited a number of universities whose answers to an official inquiry into the costs of study had been so widely different as to prompt incredulity. There had been some genuine variations in their understanding of what was required of them; but in one case, where middle-range administrative staff had

supplied the information, I found the answers had been well and truly cooked in the belief that this would increase the size of students' grants.

I doubt if many departments consciously lied to the PSI.

Careful use of the opportunities provided by loosely worded questions, and selective amnesia seem to have happened here.

The cynical might suggest that, when word has gone round that group research is in, and solo research is out, if you then ask departments which they do, the answer is predictable. Similarly, when students' success rates are under scrutiny, it is not surprising to learn that nearly all departments say their research students see their supervisors frequently.

But to some extent these answers spring from the naive form of the questions. Instead of asking, in general terms, how students "study to work", the PSI might have asked in detail for names of students, their topics, their supervisors, and then which students formed groups with which others and with which staff, what kind of groups they are, and when the group last met jointly to discuss their research.

Similarly departments might have been asked to list their research students and say which had and which had not seen their supervisors to discuss their research during the previous week. Even that would allow some rigging of the results, but there would probably have been less.

Other questions show ignorance of the literature of the field - presumably, and understandably, the author did not have enough time for reading. Berelson in America found that if you ask both supervisors and stu-

dents who thought of the research topic, they may both claim it as their own idea. He explains this phenomenon, and anyone who has read his explanation can find a way round this pitfall, but the PSI did not.

A common weakness of not-very-good surveys is to ask questions to which the respondent cannot be expected to know the answer. When I made the first comprehensive survey of the research and development expenditure of British industry, most of my draft questions, produced with much advice from those who believed they thoroughly understood the subject, were of that kind, while others caused problems through the lack of clear definitions that would suit varied respondents.

In any study it is only too easy for anyone with inadequate knowledge of the subject matter, or with too many unrecognized preconceptions, to jump to erroneous conclusions about the meaning of the information collected.

It is impossible to be sure what has gone wrong in this study. Possibly the committee that commissioned the work dictated the form of the questionnaire to too great an extent.

In so sensitive an area, where there was bound to be a risk of departments producing seriously slanted answers, there was a strong case for some form of checking of the answers, perhaps by searching interviews at a sub-sample; but this was not done - perhaps there was too little time.

The second survey (*The Education and Employment of Postgraduates*, by Colin Brown) avoids some of these mistakes, partly because the questions used were heavily based (without acknowledgement) on previous research - some that Stephen Hatch and I did (E. Rudd and S. R. Hatch (1968) *Graduate Study and After*) and also perhaps because they employed a market research firm. However, no attempt is made to compare their results with ours, or with a more recent survey by the

Department of Employment.

The main weakness here is of a different kind. The response rate was under 50 per cent whereas we achieved nearly 80 per cent from the comparable part of our survey. As it is likely that non-response is associated with some characteristic of the survey, there is a strong risk that the low response affects the validity of the results - which is a pity as some of them are interesting, especially the finding that, in the early years of employment, graduates with higher degrees are advanced less rapidly in salary by their employers than otherwise comparable graduates with only first degree.

To sum up, these studies do not induce any confidence that they way to be sure that policy research will be of a satisfactory quality is to commission bodies such as the PSI to do it. But is there any alternative?

There is a strong case for some organization that can bring in *ad hoc* teams with a different membership for each job, tailored to the job in hand, combining those who have done research in the area before and are familiar with the literature and others with different skills.

There seems to me to be a strong case for getting out Professor Dahrendorf's proposal and doing it down. Perhaps the first step needed to turn it into reality is to bring together a consortium of people in universities with experience of policy-oriented research.

Such an organization would also need a nucleus of permanent staff, both for administration and to provide skills, such as computing, that would be in constant use. This begins to look like the Brookings, but it also bears a little resemblance to the Social Science Research Council Data Archive, and for ease in gaining access to existing data, such a group would need close links with the archive.

The author is reader in sociology at the University of Essex.

Overseas continued

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Special Features for 1983

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June 10 Reviews of New Journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

June 17 Computers in Higher Education

August 12 Feature to commemorate the 13th Commonwealth Universities Congress.

Sept 15 Reviews of New Journals in the Sciences.

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Don's diary

Monday

Went shopping in town today - small items which were really only an excuse. I have recently rediscovered the pleasures of walking in a city. When I was teaching I hated the noise of city traffic and looked to the countryside for peace and relaxation. Now I have perfect peace every morning while I sit at my desk in the bay window of our front room and look out on a quiet suburban street.

Going to town gives me the chance to mingle with, observe, and draw conclusions about the busy world. I also have time to admire the endless variety of architectural detail in the buildings of this Victorian city. Most importantly I enjoy that sense of perfect wellbeing which comes from being able to saunter while others, poor fellow human beings, must rush as I once did.

All these delightful activities came to an abrupt end for today when I pulled a muscle in my leg while negotiating a busy pedestrian crossing. So I hobbled and lurched my way back to the bus station, feeling like Quasimodo and wondering how I was going to present myself at the interview, later in the week, for part-time job with an educational publisher.

Tuesday

An ordinary car at home. My wife takes the car this morning so by ten past eight I'm at my desk, the lamp switched on because it's still dark outside. The rain is lashing against the window and I feel almost guiltily snug.

In working this morning on my family history, I can't remember how this interest began but it was after I was pensioned off and I'm sure, very psychological. Yet I've derived great benefit as well as pleasure from it. Ridiculous though it may sound in a knowledge-laden age, you can benefit from reflecting upon a few scraps of information about the lives of long dead people whom you have never known. The work has also presented a variety of challenges. Getting information from parish registers is not always easy, and sometimes not very informative when achieved. In writing up your discoveries there is the question of the form to be adopted. My aim has been to produce a readable narrative, and I think I've had some success so far. But it's difficult when the available material is thin and conjecture inevitable.

In the afternoon I bobbled into the garden for vegetables with which I make soup. Then do other domestic chores until my wife returns from school at 4.30. My younger daughter, who is unemployed at the moment and living at home until she joins the police at the end of the month, cooks the main course of the evening meal. Afterwards some quiet reading and a bit of television. To bed by 10.30.

Wednesday

Put on a smart suit and am driven by my wife to the university building where I am to meet my interviewing conference. I have been told that a teachers' conference is taking place there and that I should go to the information desk. I assume I will then be told the room in which the interview is to take place. But there is no message for me.

At last I notice that someone is now standing by the desk and glancing questioningly at his watch and me. I approach him, trying to pretend that my limp is only my usual way of twisting and winding through a crowded foyer. It is my interview, and it becomes clear that he has not booked a room. More hobnobbing about until we decide that we can talk at the back of an empty lecture theatre.

We do so, standing, and I feel that he doubts my "resilience" (is it the

limp?) to visit schools day after day, extracting requests for inspection copies from harassed and uninterested teachers. He's probably right, but I shall try again for this kind of job.

Thursday

Another uneventful day at home.

Friday

My older daughter telephones for her weekly chat. She has been given a beta treble plus for her last assignment, which invited her to discuss in French the proposition that men is a feeling rather than a rational being. Her tutor's comment was that the French was very good but the content a bit thin. My views about how we ought to be directing the energies of our more able teenagers have changed considerably as I've grown older, and watched my own children going through a system of which I'm no longer a part.

Life in and around the city in which my daughter presently lives seems to be a charmed (as well as charming) one in other ways too. She tells me that while she's there it's difficult to remember that the country is in the middle of a depression. This is entirely in tune with my own observations made on my last visit to her. It is all the more ironic because the region is traditionally one of the most underprivileged in the country. I suppose one can at least say that our educational institutions bring very tangible benefits to their immediate environments. As to the long-term benefits to their students, one needs a kind of educational faith in order to acknowledge their reality.

Saturday

Family past-gives way to family present. My son and daughter-in-law are coming to stay for a few days. They are arts graduates and the very good top seconds have had little to do with their obtaining work as assistant managers for a well-known restaurant chain. They've been doing this work for over a year now and I don't think they can take much more of it. The hours of work are such that one feels there should be some way of taking the company to the European Court of Human Rights. Both are applying for other jobs, and each has at last landed an interview. We hope and pray, and take each day as it comes.

Sunday

Go to church where I am told about man's tendency, in religion as in other things, either to look back to "the good old days" (eg before the changes of Vatican II) or to the future (Heaven) for security and happiness. It's suggested that the Kingdom is already here for those who (again) have the eyes of faith. I know it's true, but it's hard to live more than momentarily.

I still need my family history and my gardening, and it's a fine day I spend some time in the greenhouse drying and disinfecting in preparation for the year ahead. I've had my usual share of setbacks - ground plants, wrenched out of the ground by gales, peas which begin to shrivel before the whole crop has been picked, and brassicas stricken by cabbage root fly.

But one of the more certain things in an uncertain world is that despite all these natural disasters I shall, God willing, once more produce almost all our vegetables for the next 12 months. This gives me a deep satisfaction, as well as a variety of culinary delights not otherwise available. And that can't be bad.

C. W. McPhee

The author was head of the faculty of arts at Sedley Park College of Education until its closure in 1980.

It seems that *The Times* is waging a war against architecture, or at least against architects. One of its writers even welcomes the idea of turning from the battle against Argentina to the battle against modern architecture. That was Roger Scruton, writing in *The Times* in January on "A profession due for scaling down" and, if I hadn't been preoccupied with other matters like money and the National Academy Body exercise, I would have turned my attention to him straightaway.

But there was another reason why I did nothing. I thought he was being funny. I imagined he, as a teacher of philosophy, was raising all sorts of amusing and ambiguous questions, as philosophers like to do. He thought, for example, that an old-fashioned builder armed with a pattern book could make "an agreeable botched job". But then I was told by someone who knows him that he wasn't being funny at all and presumably thinks that a botched job is what we ought to have.

Here is an example of what I thought were jokes in Scruton's powerful article. Architects will tell you, he says, that buildings have specific functions, and must be seriously designed so as to fulfil those functions. But, he writes: "The argument is nonsense. Buildings no more have specific functions than do clothes."

It is always distressing when you find someone is serious after all. I remember a good architect with a big mustache who I thought was very funny indeed. I always laughed whenever he spoke and then found that he was a man devoid of a sense of humour, who thought I must be mad because I always started laughing whenever he said something serious. That's the sort of thing that happens to architects, not usually to philosophers.

What worries me, since it's serious, is not the buildings; it's the assumption about the clothes. Lots of different people use a building and it may be that lots of different people use the same clothes. When I was a student in Edinburgh, a very economically minded city, I used to buy my clothes from a second-hand shop in the Grassmarket where they were very cheap, and I suppose a lot of people had been inside them before me and found them no more ill-fitting than I did. I still wear a dinner jacket I bought there and it doesn't seem any worse than the others I see around me.

But, since the point is about function rather than individuals, I am fascinated by the thought that clothes

God save us and buildings from thinkers



Patrick Nuttgens

do not have specific functions to a philosopher. How interesting it must be in any institution (or loony-bin) where Scruton is to be found! Full of lecturers and writers with their trousers over their head on one day, and their gloves round their toes on another, and their socks on their ears and hats tied over the front of their faces so that they can talk through a hole in it.

The point of Scruton's argument is that, since buildings do not have specific functions, architects are unnecessary. He writes: "We must begin by destroying the illusion that architecture is necessary. They are as dispensable as dress designers, and as dangerous." He has something to say about dress designers, and we can do without some architects. The problem is to know who the real architects or dress designers are, especially if we make our own.

You can tell that I have been stimulated by Scruton's attack and by its originality. He finds that the classical tradition, which he loves, does not "flexibility, multiplicity, ornament and moulding. It concerns not the whole, but the part, and the whole is derived from the part". Gothic architects might have agreed with that. But what would Alberti, the great theorist and architect of the Renaissance, have thought of it, with his plans for centralized churches and his well-known mathematical definition, based on Vitruvius, that beauty

consists in a rational integration of the proportions of all the parts of a building in such a way that nothing could be added or taken away without destroying the harmony of the whole? How astonished would he have been when designing Villa Capra if he had been told that it simply derived from its period of the designers of the Parthenon. I always wonder to make sweeping generalizations when you know little about the subject.

Bernard Levin had a bit of architects a few weeks later when he was provoked by an architect's proposal that there should be an electric roadway along Oxford Street to console himself, as I imagine, with us of us, by the thought that things will never be built, though I cannot share any enthusiasm for Oxford Street as it is now.

Fortunately Levin is being kind. Or I think he is. Or perhaps he thinks he is. He admires the right buildings. Or at least I think he does. Bitterness Power Station is "both beautiful and undated," he says. I hope he doesn't mean that it might have been built at any point in history, because it looks like a dateable to me and there have been many other periods when power stations were major monuments.

It used to be regarded as an eyesore by people other than architects, but have usually had a soft spot for it, but I cannot quite bring myself to think of it as beautiful. Dramatic, powerful, evocative, handsome, strong. Yes. But beautiful? But it doesn't matter, because when Levin wants to in central London is a row of cottages in Colwyn stone, and thatched. Full of Cotswold characters, with smoke and sickles. Or, to bring the Cotswolds more up to date, full of businessmen or commuters because they really wanted to be in Birmingham. But it's lovely. The cottages could be full of *Times* journalists all writing longhand and willing for the past.

Where Levin has a good point is where he talks of architects wanting to tear down every building in the country and put them up again, side-out, upside-down and back-to-front. Whether or not the architects want to do this to all buildings, the description does make some impression on points about development of architecture. The new vision of space between buildings are precisely side-out, upside-down and back-to-front, like the Pompidou Centre. But that's another story.

One-horse outfits really need a bridle



Keith Hampson

The *New Straits Times* of Malaysia is not my normal reading. But I have been sent a copy with a front-page splash highlighting the "absurd" treatment meted out to Malaysian students by some of our private British colleges. Whatever its accuracy, it is highly damaging, both for the good name of this country and the reputation of our educational standards.

Steady increases in overseas student fees for our universities and public sector institutions have marked off a private enterprise boom. Over many years, the best private colleges have demonstrated that they can be far quicker in responding to changes in the demand for courses than the polytechnics and

the universities. They have been particularly proficient at intensive preparation for the qualifications required by various professional bodies. But it is high time the Government stepped in to stop the malpractice which seems to be creeping into some parts of the private sector.

The "University of Somerset" sounds good and its prospectus is well-produced. We might know that it does not stand alongside York, Essex, Lancaster and Warwick. But how many people in Malaysia might be misled into thinking that it is yet another of the "Sbakepearan" universities of the late 1960s? Or, since we now have a Buckingham, may they not believe that a Somerset has been granted a royal charter too?

There are scores of institutions peddling themselves with glossy brochures, tempting hundreds of foreign students to these shores, for whom, costing a great deal of money and producing much frustration. The DES wishes its hands off the problem. It would not be practical to ban low-grade, sometimes bogus, private institutions, even if one believed it right to free society to do so.

The solution is simple. We need a system for accrediting private sector colleges. Then potential overseas students would stand a better chance of choosing wisely. In the first place, we must protect students from exploitation. Any self-respecting institution will positively want a system of endorsement that identifies it as a place offering reliable services. Thankfully, the British Council has realized what was wanted. After the DES withdrew its recognition of colleges in 1969, the British Council set up its own system of accreditation. It should follow its predecessor's example.

Participating member colleges pay a fee together with the cost of a two-man inspection. But can we establish a full-blown accreditation system for all independent education, whether it is accountancy, law, or what ever?

Almost unnoticed, a seven-member working party has been struggling for nearly a year to devise an appropriate scheme. This group embraces representatives of the United Kingdom Council on Overseas Student Affairs (UKCOSA), the British schools, the law schools, the British Management Export Training Council and the Conference for Independent Further Education, as well as the British Council. One of Her Majesty's Inspectors has kept an eye on them.

Their report is expected around May but they have already decided there should be a British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education, with the inevitable acronym BAC.

The prestige of the organization supporting such a scheme should draw in a great many colleges. Once could be a hand-wagon effect. Once inspections were under way, the money would start coming in. The scheme could become self-financing. But, for the early months, bridging funds would be needed; the sum of about £10,000 for the first year. This is where the DES should step in. There must be no long-term financial commitment for the Government, but it must put up the initial funds. In return the Secretary of State could appoint the chairman and an assessor. The DES played a similar role in the launch of the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges in 1969. If the Government seriously believes in the private sector, it should follow its predecessor's example.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Galbraith's disservice to the arts - and to himself

Sir, - John Kenneth Galbraith, in his article "The Artist and the Economist" (*THE*, February 18), has done both the arts and himself a disservice. His reasons for attaching importance to the arts, to arts education and to the artists themselves seem mundane if not self. If his arguments were to be accepted as the basis for a justification of the continuance of arts education, the arts might be weakened rather than strengthened as a result. Professor Galbraith points to three areas in which the arts might be more important than appearances suggest. He points out that paintings and sculpture can be currency in themselves - that fuddy-duddy museum keepers might oustpace economic experts by acquiring works which increase in value dramatically. Secondly, he suggests that because affluent societies generally support the arts, we should pay more attention to the arts in order to convince ourselves that society is affluent. This is like saying a good cake gener-

ally has icing. Therefore, when we spot some icing, we can assume that some good cake lies beneath. Finally, he points out that tasteful design makes money and he cites the Italian car industry as an example.

Though Professor Galbraith does not say that these are the only justifications for the arts, he implies it, if only because he omits to point to any other reason for their presence. The flaw in his reasoning stems from an apparent assumption that economic health represents the pinnacle of human endeavour. Though professional designers and others have always made contributions towards the smooth running of economic activity, to debate them and indicate a topsy-turvy view of life's value. I hope that Professor Galbraith will write another article showing how economics can support the arts. That would make some sense. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM SALAMAN, Lecturer in Music Education, University College, Cardiff.

According to these criteria, it is the visual arts which are most useful. What use can we find for drama, music or dance? Maybe we should encourage the creative musician to compose chimes for ice-cream vans and the dramatist to frame nicely-phrased memoranda for factories and offices.

To those engaged in artistic activity, whether as creator or audience, the benefits are immediate, often non-verbal and in many ways self-justifying. To suggest that the arts are the smooth running of economic activity is to debate them and indicate a topsy-turvy view of life's value. I hope that Professor Galbraith will write another article showing how economics can support the arts. That would make some sense. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM SALAMAN, Lecturer in Music Education, University College, Cardiff.

Psychology studied

Sir, - Carol Sherrard ("Psychology as a Cast of Mind", *THE*, February 18), manages to include a non-sequitur or an unsupported assertion in almost every sentence of her article. The total effect is, to me, so confusing that I should like to pick up just a few.

Psychology is often considered a science, and it does require application, but the relationship is not causal. Arts subjects are no less rigorous, difficult, and demanding. It does not follow that application is impossible if more than one subject is studied, nor that in that case the technical aspects cannot be taught. Even at GCE A level, where three subjects are commonly taken, psychology syllabuses include reasonably sophisticated experimentation.

Why should students on multi-subject courses necessarily have "broad theoretical social interests"? What about students on multi-subject science courses who may be taking (say) physics, biochemistry and psychology?

"Psychology" is a name for a group of studies, it is not an actor, and does not claim to analyse social issues. Some psychologists possibly may, but I should have thought most are more modest. Psychology as a discipline is not more or less disposed to reductionism than other disciplines, and I should have thought it was widely accepted that a complete account of behaviour requires analysis at least at the physiological, psychological, and social levels.

The query as to whether a first single-subject degree gives mastery is baffling. In absolutely any subject the answer is yes and no. Any first degree implies some measure of competence, and any one can be followed by further study. It would be interesting to know on what the general statement about the nature of single-subject teaching (myself included) is based.

I hope this does not sound unduly severe. Carol Sherrard's experiences at Bradford may well have provided useful lessons for the teaching of psychology, but they do not emerge in her article.

Yours faithfully, JOHN RADFORD, Dean of Faculty of Science, North Essex Polytechnic.

Never too late

Sir, - I would like to comment on the two letters on "Age barriers" (*THE*, February 18). May I first assure Mr Chater that it is possible to make a career in universities starting after 35. I didn't begin until I was nearly 50, and have had quite a good time since.

Could I also support Mr A. Hollingham's plea that the curious 35 age limit be ignored when higher education is seeking new blood. The authorities might then be able to transfuse more rational new blood into the hardening arteries of our universities.

Yours sincerely, COLIN FLOOD PAGE, Burygate, Hereford.

Game theory

Sir, - Several errors and misunderstandings were perpetrated by Alan Grafen in his review of John Maynard Smith's *Evolution and the Theory of Games* (*THE*, February 18).

According to Grafen, "the theory of games was formulated mathematically by von Neumann and Morgenstern in 1922", and "the idea behind the ESS (evolutionarily stable strategy) was used in 1930 by R. A. Fisher in relation to sex ratios, be fore game theory itself was invented". This is all wrong. It is like suggesting that the idea behind the bicycle preceded the invention of the game theory in its modern (strategic) form were well understood by the late 1920s, and von Neumann proved the fundamental theorem in 1928. (The book by von Neumann and Morgenstern first appeared in 1944, not 1952.) R. A. Fisher was of course not ignorant of game theory: he independently proved a less general version of the fundamental theorem in 1934.

Grafen claims that game theory was formulated to represent the competitive behaviour of human beings each pursuing their own self-

ish motives with complete rationality. Unfortunately (for the theory) human beings are frequently unselfish and irrational. There are at least three debilitating misconceptions here. First, a large part of game theory - and most of von Neumann and Morgenstern's book, incidentally - is devoted to games that are not strictly competitive, and the games discussed by Maynard Smith are all mixed-motive (partly cooperative and partly competitive). Second, there is (fortunately for the theory) no assumption that people's motives are completely selfish: games can be (and have been) used to model interactions between completely altruistic players. Third, the theory seeks to discover how rational decision makers ought to behave in order to maximize their (selfish or altruistic) objectives; the circumstances in which ordinary people or animals actually do behave rationally is a purely empirical question, and one that has received a lot of attention from researchers in recent decades.

Yours sincerely, ANDREW COLMAN, Department of Psychology, University of Leicester.

Leicester dispute

Sir, - "Personality clash stops talks" (*THE*, February 25), shock horror! Your paper is the last I would expect to resort to the cheap sensationalist tactics of the tabloids. The entire article about a current dispute between the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education and the management at Leicester Polytechnic is both tendentious and based on a number of fundamental errors. I would now like to take this opportunity to set the record straight.

The dispute is not about a "personality clash" but a fundamental issue of principle, in short, trade unions are entitled to decide who represents their members in negotiations. This right is not subject to the whim of arbitrary management. It is precisely on this point, and the obduracy of management in failing to recognize it, that talks have broken down.

Secondly, the letter from our regional official, which Mr Bethel has chosen to take issue with in a fit of pique arising from new found sensitivity, was neither "rud" nor "based on ignorance". The letter was sent following a meeting between our regional official and Naffthe members in receipt of the select "invitation" for premature retirement. Many of those members were extremely angry about the tone and content of the so-called "invitation". Indeed, for most, it came as a kick in the teeth after many years of loyal and exemplary service to the polytechnic. If rudeness and insensitivity has been a feature of the current dispute, then it has come from one quarter only.

Thirdly, there are several incorrect and totally false statements in the article which I would have thought your journalists should have been duty bound to check with Naffthe, before publishing them as Holy writ. Contrary to the statement attributed to Mr Bethel, Naffthe was not "fully

Nautical studies

Sir, - I would like to bring your attention to misleading statements appearing in an article entitled "Aptitude refuse to rock the college boat" (*THE*, February 11).

The first paragraph of the article states that "the five largest centres for advanced training for ship's mates and captains are the ones in Southampton, South Shields, Plymouth, Liverpool and Fleetwood, counting the three in Scotland. The smaller centres include: Humber College of Higher Education; City of London Polytechnic; Lowestoft College of Further Education; Bournemouth Technical College; Bristol, South Glamorgan, Instaur, of Higher Education and Ulster Polytechnic". It is quite wrong to suggest that Fleetwood is one of the five largest

centres for advanced training for ship's mates and captains and that Humber College of Higher Education is one of the smaller centres.

Reference to enrolment statistics produced by the Council of Local Education Authorities for the colleges mentioned for the past three years will show quite clearly that, so far as these courses are concerned, South Shields is the largest, Humber College of Higher Education, Liverpool and Plymouth are next largest and are of similar size while Fleetwood College is by far the smallest!

Yours faithfully, D. R. DERRETT, Head of nautical studies, Humber College of Higher Education.

Standards at risk

Sir, - Your leader, "Quality or opportunity?" (*THE*, February 25), does not make clear that if the public sector were to accept a lower unit of resource, the academic standards of qualifications offered by the polytechnics and colleges would be seriously at risk.

It is a requirement of the Council for National Academic Awards that degrees validated by the council be of a standard at least equivalent to comparable university degrees. If the public sector were operating at a unit of resource marginally lower than the universities, it might be reasonable to increase staff-student ratios in that sector in order to accommodate more students within a fixed level of resource, provided there were to be a corresponding increase in less costly support services. However, the cost per student in the public sector, exclusive of fees, in 1983/84 will be £2,500 per full-time equivalent, while the corresponding figure in the universities will be £4,000.

This disparity of provision not only leads to higher SSRs (currently approximately 10.5 in the polytechnics compared to 9.3 in the universities) in the public sector, but results in an inadequate provision of support staff, e.g. librarians, technicians, computer staff, etc. In recent years polytechnic and college qualifications have gained increasing respect from industry, schools and students. This is in no small measure due to the scrupulous attention these institutions have given to validation requirements.

In my view, and apparently the view of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, that the universities were entirely right to maintain their unit of resource in order to protect their internationally recognized academic standards. Equally, it would be a disservice, however well intentioned, to both existing and potential students if the hard won recognition of public sector qualifications were to be put in jeopardy by increasing student intakes without increasing resources.

Yours faithfully, DR RAYMOND RICKETT, Director, Middlesex Polytechnic.

appraised of the situation". It is precisely because of the failure on the part of management to keep us fully informed that talks were called for in the first place. Similarly, the majority of staff who received the premature retirement "invitation" are Naffthe members. In my view, 33 out of 53 constitutes a majority. Clearly, educationalists' concern about numbers should not be directed solely to school leavers. Finally, the Association of Polytechnic Teachers' decision not to negotiate rights at the polytechnic nor to be a "rival" to Naffthe.

The vast majority of teaching staff regard the APT as a joke and this is reflected in the relative size of the two organizations at the polytechnic.

Yours faithfully, M. PACK, Chairman, City Campus Branch, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, Leicester Polytechnic.

centres for advanced training for ship's mates and captains and that Humber College of Higher Education is one of the smaller centres.

Reference to enrolment statistics produced by the Council of Local Education Authorities for the colleges mentioned for the past three years will show quite clearly that, so far as these courses are concerned, South Shields is the largest, Humber College of Higher Education, Liverpool and Plymouth are next largest and are of similar size while Fleetwood College is by far the smallest!

Yours faithfully, D. R. DERRETT, Head of nautical studies, Humber College of Higher Education.

Union View

A challenge that must be accepted

All young people not remaining in full-time education at 16 - including those who would otherwise have received further education through day or block release - will, from next month, be eligible for the Youth Training Scheme.

The YTS, which includes at least 13 weeks off-the-job training/education, therefore presents further education with a challenge and an opportunity - the chance to provide for all young people an educational package which they will perceive as relevant to their needs. The opportunity must be grasped and turned into reality. The best interests of young people will be served by further education making that effort. Through its quality of teaching and care, the service ought to seek to ensure that the 13 weeks are used to the advantage of trainees.

It would not be in the interests of trainees for further education to succumb to the strident negativism which is now appearing in a number of places. (And if it does, it will have only itself to blame should the YTS off-the-job element become totally privatized.)

Of course, without massive youth unemployment the Government would probably not be funding the YTS. But attacks on government policies ought to be made through political activity designed to ensure, via the ballot box, the adoption of an alternative economic strategy. They ought not to be made by denying the needs of trainees on the YTS. That would be to arrogate further education's responsibility.

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Now the involvement of further education in YTS in the interests, and on the side of trainees is not an uncertain blank cheque. There are major criticisms. The YTS is seriously under-resourced - and not significantly better resourced than the Youth Opportunities Programme. Not only is direct resourcing inadequate: funds available for materials, equipment and staff development are hopelessly insufficient. And quite insufficient attention is being given to equal opportunities in the YTS. Now that sponsors are permitted to direct, the present discrimination of the labour market seems likely to be reflected in the YTS. (However, the criticism that the YTS will not lead to jobs, while true, is spurious. Further education has never been able to guarantee the future of its students.)

In addition, there are real dangers: of the destruction of remaining jobs for 16-year-olds; of job substitution; of the depression of youth (and thereby adult) wages; and of employers using the YTS as a screening for their own recruitment, which will only be averted by trade unions exercising vigilance, through representative action on area manpower boards.

There is also widespread concern, unless educational grants at sufficiently high levels are made available to young people, that the determination of how best to meet their needs will be distorted by financial horriers. Other issues remain to be resolved: of progression/transfer from the YTS to other education and/or training provision; of certification and assessment; and of the content of the common core. Moreover, although the YTS has the potential for a two-year quality programme of vocational preparation for all school-leavers who do not continue in full-time education to the age of 18.

But, now, immediately, the needs of trainees within the YTS are there to be met. For anyone to argue that further education should refuse to meet these would be to seek to use young people as political pawns.

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